

### THE SITE OF THE NEW POST OFFICE.

The Public Works Committee met, we believe, on the 13th January to discuss a new proposition in reference to the contemplated buildings for the accommodation of certain Government Departments. It was originally designed to erect offices on the new Praya Reclamation, on the two sites belonging to the Government lying between the City Hall and the Bund. These two sites are separated by the Connaught Road, and it would have been necessary to erect two separate buildings, one for the use of the Post Office, Treasury, and other Departments, and the other to serve as Law Courts. Mr COOPER prepared plans for these buildings before his departure for Ceylon, but these plans did not, according to all reports, meet with general approval and were to be reconsidered. What has been done with them since we are unable to say; all we know is that the Secretary of State deferred sanction of the project until he received assurances that the funds for the erection of the buildings were available and was informed how it was proposed to raise the money. The Colonial Government were in a position to show how the cost of these offices could be met, and this has no doubt been done by His Excellency the Governor. The sanction of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State could, therefore, not be long withheld, and this much needed work ought ere long to be inaugurated.

The advent of the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY on the scene in the interval would appear to have been most fortunate for the colony, for we hear he has propounded a scheme by which the Treasury will be saved a very large sum, and public convenience be much better served. Briefly his project is to erect the Law Courts, Land Office, &c., on the site north of the City Hall, which would amply suffice for the purpose, and to build a new Post Office and Treasury on the site of the present one and of the existing Supreme Court. The Government would then have the valuable sites on which the Land Office and the building known as Crosby's Store now stand as well as the Marine lot opposite the Hongkong Club to dispose of. It is calculated that by this arrangement, retaining certain offices in Beaconsfield, a saving of some \$300,000 would be effected. Nor is this the sole or even the chief advantage to be gained. The Post Office is now most advantageously placed for the public convenience: it is in the very centre of the town and far more accessible than if situated at the extreme end of the business quarter, as would be the case if planted close to the Hongkong Club. The determination of the Admiralty to extend the Royal Naval Dockyard and reclaim a great slice of the foreshore for that purpose has extinguished all prospect of the business quarter of the City shifting eastward, and the centre of Victoria must therefore continue to be Pedder's Street. Mr. ORMSBY's scheme will, we feel confident, be welcomed by a general chorus of approval. There may be some little disappointment among lot holders on the new Reclamation, but the interests of the public have to be considered first, and there can be no doubt those interests will be best served by adopting the proposal of the Director of Public Works.

We have one suggestion to make in reference to this great public improvement. When the new Post Office is being built, would it not be possible at the same time to remove the Clock Tower to a more suitable site? As it exists at present the Tower is

a nuisance and the benefits of the Town Clock are lost. The Tower is dwarfed by the huge blocks of the Hongkong Hotel, and the clock is only visible at a small distance and to a limited number. It could easily be rebuilt in front of Pedder's Wharf, where it would be visible all along the Praya for miles, and if carried to a height of some two hundred feet the clock would then be generally useful. The cost of this improvement would not be very great and the colony might readily indulge in the luxury if it saved three lakhs of dollars by the adoption of Mr. ORMSBY's scheme—for the new Offices. Standing where it does, the Clock Tower is an obstruction to traffic; it chokes up the roadway in the busiest street of the city; and it prevents a free circulation of air in a very crowded quarter. Moreover, though perhaps not ineffective if properly situated, it is with its present surroundings far from being architecturally ornamental, and has practically ceased to be a landmark to visitors, as was formerly the case when it was less overshadowed by contiguous buildings. A petition for its removal was some years ago, if we remember rightly, presented to the Government. We trust, therefore, that the Government will now authorise the Director of Public Works to include the fresh disposal of the Clock Tower in his scheme of improvement of the Government Offices. It is also to be hoped, in the interests of the public generally, that the erection of the new Post Office will be pushed on as rapidly as possible. The institution is so badly housed at present that the service suffers materially, and a more commodious and suitable building for the Post Office has for years been one of the great wants of the colony.

### THE SALE OF INJURIOUS LIQUOR.

Some time ago the Justices of the Peace submitted a series of resolutions to the Government recommending that steps should be taken for the prevention of the sale of injurious liquor. A reply has now been received from the Government and a meeting of the Justices has been convened for Thursday next to consider it. We understand the Government desire the Justices to submit definite proposals as to the means to be employed to attain the desired object. The Justices may possibly think that they have done their duty in drawing attention to the evil and that it is the province of the Government to devise the means of dealing with it. Whatever decision may be arrived at on this point the first step to be taken should be the appointment of a committee, either by the Government or the Justices, to inquire into the conditions of the trade and how the importation and sale of deleterious liquor may be best prevented. It would hardly be necessary for the committee to waste time in taking evidence as to the existence of the evil, for that is unfortunately only too notorious. The question for solution is as to how to deal with it. Importers of spirits might be required to supply the Government with returns of their importations, as is done in the case of opium, and samples might be taken from time to time for analysis. The liability to have any particular consignment analysed, condemned, and confiscated would tend to make importers careful as to the quality of the liquor indented for by them and cause them to inform their correspondents and agents that it was dangerous to send out any alcohol got up as whisky, brandy, or gin. To that course some objec-

tion might be opposed on the ground that it was an interference with the freedom of the port. That is a principle that the Justices, a majority of whom are engaged in mercantile pursuits, would not be disposed to lightly interfere with; but, on the other hand, it may be urged that the freedom of the port cannot rightly be held to imply freedom to import poisonous stuff with the intention of selling it as wholesome liquor. If the idea of dealing with the stuff on its importation be rejected the alternative course is to try to trace it out after it has been distributed for sale by retail. This might be done by appointing a staff of inspectors to make surprise visits to the grog shops and take samples of the liquor found therein. Some amendment of the law would also be required in the direction of setting up a standard of wholesome liquor and defining the quantity of injurious substances—traces of which may perhaps be found in most samples—that should subject the liquor to confiscation and the seller to punishment by fine. The evil is one that would justify the adoption of drastic measures to suppress it if milder measures do not suffice. Many men in the army and navy are ruined for life by drinking the vile stuff now sold as wholesome liquor; it drives them mad for the time being and causes them to commit crimes by which they forfeit all prospect of promotion in the service. Only the other day three of the best petty officers on one of the men-of-war had to be disgraced owing to their having got into trouble while under the influence of drink, although it is supposed they had not taken more than would have been good for them, or at least not specially harmful to them, had it been liquor fit for drinking. The article on alcohol in Ure's Dictionary, speaking of the impurity of raw spirits, arising principally from the presence of fusel oil says:—"Such spirits intoxicate more strongly than pure spirits of the same strength, and excite, in many persons, even temporary frenzy." That is precisely what the naval and military officers aver with respect to much of the liquor sold to sailors and soldiers in Hongkong; men of previously good character imbibe only a moderate quantity of what they suppose to be ordinary whisky, brandy, or gin, and they at once become subject to frenzy, which leads to their being entered on the crime sheet, and their prospects in the service are utterly destroyed. If spirits are allowed to mature the fusel oil spontaneously decomposes, and the liquor containing it becomes less noxious, but the cheap stuff sold in the grog shops is allowed no time to mature, and a good deal of it is not genuine whisky or brandy at all, but potato spirit faked up. "By far the most pernicious of all the ordinary drinks in use," says the article on alcohol in Quain's Medical Dictionary, "is the spirit obtained from potatoes, as this contains the largest amount of fusel oil. . . . It can easily be demonstrated by experiments upon animals that amyl alcohol"—i.e. fusel oil—"is the agent to the presence of which the extremely poisonous effect of many drinks upon our nerves and other organs is due." In Brunton's Pharmacology we also read that "the toxic effect of alcohol is greatly increased by impurities, so that inferior brandy from a public house has a lethal action nearly one half greater than pure ethylic alcohol." If that is the case with the inferior brandy sold in public houses in England what must be the lethal effect of much of the so-called brandy and whisky sold in Hongkong? It is to be hoped, therefore,



that the Justices of the Peace will do their duty in the matter and, having commenced the campaign against the sale of injurious liquor, will carry it through to a successful issue.

#### ENGLISH TEACHING FOR HONG-KONG CHINESE.

That hardy annual, the subject of teaching the Chinese to speak English, was again in evidence at the distribution of prizes at Queen's College on Friday last, when Sir JOHN CARRINGTON was the orator of the occasion. Far be it from us to depreciate the importance of teaching English to the Chinese, but when public men undertake to discuss the question in public it would be an advantage if they took the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the conditions of the problem. The Chief Justice says that when he came to the colony, about twenty months ago, he was very much struck with the general ignorance of the English language which prevails amongst the Chinese population of Hongkong. Having given a number of instances of this ignorance, His Honour said, "Now this is a 'strange state of things, and we look to 'Queen's College to remedy this state of 'things.' But there is in reality nothing at all strange about it. We have in Hongkong but a very small indigenous population, the great bulk of the inhabitants being persons born in China who have never had the opportunity of learning English even if they had the inclination. Of the 201,528 of Chinese land population enumerated at the census taken last year only 9,033 returned themselves as having been born in Hongkong, and a still smaller number, namely, 1,523, acknowledged the colony as their native place. Taking an outside estimate, therefore, hardly more than five per cent. of the population can have come under the influence of our local educational agencies. Small wonder, then, that the bulk of the population are unable to speak English. If Queen's College were required to remedy this state of things it would have to establish branch schools in all the towns and villages of the province of Kwangtung, from which the population is chiefly drawn. But even if the alien character of the population were less pronounced than it is we still fail to see that there would be cause for surprise in the fact that the majority can speak only their own language. When a person goes to one of Her Majesty's foreign dominions populated by a native race, he cannot reasonably expect to find English the common language of the people. In India and the Straits Settlements the European population find it convenient to learn the native languages in order to be able to communicate with their servants and tradesmen, and were the Chinese language less difficult no doubt the same course would be adopted in Hongkong; but as Chinese is not a language that can be 'picked up,' and as few can afford the time and large expenditure of effort requisite for its systematic study, we have to get on as best we can with the aid of 'pidgin' English or the aid of interpreters. The wonder is, having regard to the character of the population, that English will carry a person through so well as it does. Every Englishman of course hopes for the time when English will be the universal language, and it is the duty of a colony situated as Hongkong is, on the borders of an empire with a population numbering over three hundred million, to do its best to bring about that desired consummation; but at the same time it is as well to recognise

that the supplanting of the native language of the Chinese people by the English language cannot be effected by the waving of a fairy wand, even in this small colony; nor yet by many years of patient labour on the part of our various educational agencies.

#### SIR THOMAS SUTHERLAND AND THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND's speeches at the P. & O. Company's meetings are always interesting, and the one he made at the last meeting, held on the 10th December, is especially so, as Sir THOMAS dealt with the important and vexed question of the Shipping Conference. There is also a reference to Hongkong, to the disposal of the Company's property in this colony, and to the revolution which has passed over the business of steamship companies since the opening of the Suez Canal. The Shipping Conference, however, was the main subject dealt with, and it must be admitted that the speaker made a remarkably able and effective defence of the general principle involved, viz., that of combination amongst steamship owners, though he did not dispose of all the complaints of shippers. It was shown that regular lines could not be maintained without some agreement amongst themselves as to rates. To that the shipper can hardly object, for though his own interest is in favour of low charges, he must recognise the shipowners' right to a profit and be prepared to pay for the greater regularity of communication which the established lines afford over tramp steamers. But what is objected to is the preferential treatment sometimes extended to the foreign shipper in competition with the shipper from British ports, and it is on that point that Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND's speech will be subjected to the closest scrutiny. Dealing with the freight on iron and iron materials, which form the chief export from Antwerp, he said that some time ago there was a great struggle between certain German lines which brought the freight down to 10s. a ton or even lower. When the P. & O. Company found that this cut-throat competition was not to be an affair of days or weeks, but that it was pretty sure to continue until one of the German lines swallowed up the other, they lowered the freight at Middlesbrough from 15s. to 10s., or whatever the rate was from Antwerp, and he believed their example was followed in Liverpool and the rate similarly reduced there. If that course was always followed there would be no cause of complaint. But is it? The inquiry instituted by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN with reference to the trade of British colonies and foreign competition brought to light several instances in which foreign trade received the benefit of preferential freights. The Hongkong Committee drew attention to the fact that the rates of freight on piece goods charged at that time by the Conference steamers from New York to Hongkong and Shanghai averaged from 25s. to 30s. per ton as compared with 57s. 6d. from London and Liverpool. At Cape Colony also it was stated that freight was the main factor in letting in the United States, 22s. 6d. per ton being charged for furniture from New York and 31s. 3d. to 33s. 9d. from London. Even if differences such as these exist only for a time they must nevertheless exercise a considerable influence while they last and give the foreigner an opportunity of securing a footing in markets that were previously supplied from Great Britain.

#### THE FUTURE OF KOREA.

(13th January.)

We are still without any definite confirmation of the reported agreement between Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, with reference to China and Korea, but the opinion appears to be generally entertained that the trouble is over. If it be correct that the British Government is going to lend money to China direct it may be assumed that British influence will make itself felt in the administration of the Empire, though without the assumption of any formal protectorate or absolute control. The problem in that direction would be comparatively easy of solution when once international jealousies had been cleared away. The Chinese Government, though powerless to repel attack from without, possesses sufficient strength to preserve order in the various provinces, and with the guidance of foreign advice would soon be able to consolidate its authority, to provide a decent administration, and in course of time to establish an efficient army and navy. The granting of financial assistance by Great Britain implies that China is to be allowed to avail herself of such advice. But what about Korea, with its wretched government and chronic rebellions? Bad as is the administration in China it is vastly superior to that of Korea, and it is difficult to see how order is to be maintained in the latter country, or foreign interests to be protected, without some measure of direct foreign control. And who is to exercise that control? If Russia and Japan would consent to withdraw in favour of England the solution would no doubt be eminently satisfactory from our own point of view, but it can hardly be expected that the other Powers will look at it in the same light. Possibly the settlement may take the form of a tripartite control, England, Russia, and Japan being equally represented. That may turn out to be the only possible solution of the difficulty, but it is one that can hardly fail to lead to further difficulties in the future. The joint control of Egypt by France and England broke down, and a joint control in Korea would almost inevitably prove equally unstable. So far we have had no indication of what Lord SALISBURY's policy in the matter really is, but it appears clear that some very definite line has been laid down, and much curiosity must be felt as to its character. The circumstances of Korea are radically different from those of China and call for different treatment.

#### THE SANITARY BOARD AND OBSTRUCTIONS IN LANES.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Thursday there was considered an application for the renewal of a lease of Crown land in Lau Kwai Fong Lane. The application had been referred to the Sanitary Board because the property affected obstructs the entrance to the lane, access to which is gained by an archway under the house. The Medical Officer of Health opposed the granting of the application, and was supported by Mr. EDE, whereas the Director of Public Works proposed that the lease be extended as an annual lease so long as the lane continues in its present condition and the houses are not raised in height. The Hon. F. H. MAY, who presided, seconded the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY's amendment, but, the Board being equally divided, he declined to give a casting vote, and the question, so far as the Sanitary Board is concerned, is thus left open. The Govern-



ment, however, cannot have much difficulty in coming to a decision without the advice of that body. The building of houses on archways over the entrance of lanes is entirely opposed to sanitary principles. The objection is of course greater in proportion to the height of the houses in the lane and the height of the obstruction, but any obstruction whatever is objectionable as it necessarily interferes with the free circulation of air and more or less excludes the direct rays of the sun. It would be an anachronism for any civilised Government of the present day to sanction such structures or to sanction their continuance when the lapse of vested interests permits of their removal. The Director of Public Works seemed to be influenced in his opinion by what he considered the hardship to the owner of the house built over the ground in question. If there is any real hardship in the matter it would be better to meet it by monetary or other compensation than by permitting the continuance of the obstruction. Where for any reason the renewal of a Crown lease is refused liberal consideration should be given to the interests of the parties affected thereby, for when a person holds land on lease from the Crown it is always assumed that a renewal will be obtainable on the expiry of the lease, though possibly at a higher rental, to be fixed in accordance with the value of the surrounding property. The idea of dispossession without compensation seldom or never presents itself to a Crown leaseholder. If, therefore, there is any hardship in the Lau Kwai Fong case let the owner be properly compensated, but the Government would commit a grave error if it sanctioned the continuance of an obstruction at the entrance to a lane. The granting of an annual lease would be a very inadvisable expedient, as it would only lay up difficulties for the future and tend to prevent improvements in the lane.

#### REPORTERS AT EXECUTIONS.

The question of the admission of representatives of the press to executions has been engaging the attention of the Institute of Journalists and it was decided some time ago to appeal to the Home Secretary to lay down a uniform rule on the subject. At present the practice varies in different gaols: in some reporters are not admitted at all, in others one only is admitted, and in others a number are admitted. The duty of attending executions is a disagreeable one of which the reporters are no doubt glad to be relieved, but on grounds of public policy it seems expedient that they should be allowed to be present. The reason of the change from public to private executions was to do away with the demoralising influences attendant upon the drawing together of a big crowd to witness the death of a fellow creature; but it was not intended, we believe, that a veil of strict secrecy should be drawn over what actually took place in connection with the event. Sensational and morbid descriptions are of course undesirable, and from that point of view there may be something to be said in favour of the exclusion of the Press, but on the other hand the presence of spectators not belong-

ing to the official circle is one of the best guarantees for decency and the avoidance of the painful accidents that sometimes result from carelessness in the arrangements. The Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, on being applied to for orders of admission for the Press in connection with the execution that took place on the 12th January, replied that he had decided not to admit reporters. Whether this decision was arrived at on his own authority, or after reference to the Government, we do not know, but if the former it seems desirable that some rule should be laid down on the subject and that the practice should not be allowed to vary with the individual views of the officials who may successively be in charge of the Gaol. On the occasion of previous executions in the Gaol orders of admission have always been given to representatives of the Press, and that seems the wiser course.

#### SUPREME COURT.

12th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE NAM SHANG FIRM V. HIP WAI TAM, TRADING AS THE YAU CHEONG FIRM.

Plaintiffs, who are timber merchants carrying on business at 141, Taikoktsui, Kowloon, claimed \$3,979.72, being the balance due for goods sold and delivered to the defendant, who is a contractor and carried on business until recently at 19, High Street, Hongkong.

Mr. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs. The defendant did not appear, nor was he represented by counsel.

Mr. Pollock said the plaintiffs from time to time supplied goods and materials to the defendant, who made occasional payments, and balances were struck. There was now owing to the plaintiffs the sum of \$3,979.72. At the time of the issue of the writ the defendant had got into pecuniary difficulties and absconded from the colony. A writ of foreign attachment was obtained against him and the present proceedings were taken under that writ. Counsel proposed to proceed with the examination of the garnishees and to ask His Lordship what property, movable or immovable, was subject to attachment under the writ, and to then ask for execution to issue.

At this point Mr. M. W. Slade (who was instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) said he appeared for two of the garnishees, Father Torres and Mr. W. Danby, who had no property liable to attachment in their hands.

Mr. Pollock objected to his friend appearing. The plaintiffs had certain admissions that certain money and materials belonging to the defendant were on the premises of the garnishees. If the garnishees intended to set up some title in the money and materials they should have put in a claim to the property.

His Lordship thought the best course would be for the plaintiffs to prove their original claim first, and the question of the garnishees could be dealt with if the claim was established.

Mr. A. Brown, assistant bailiff, spoke to serving copies of the writ of foreign attachment on the garnishees, who are the Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Limited, Messrs. Palmer and Turner, Reverend Father Torres, and Mr. W. Danby.

Judgment was given for the plaintiff for the amount and costs.

The Court then granted counsel power to examine garnishees.

Mr. Clement Palmer was examined.

The Court determined that any sums due under the contract with Humphreys Estate and Finance Co. were subject to attachment, and gave leave to issue execution in respect thereof, the writ as regards the other garnishees to remain subsisting.

The Court then adjourned.

13th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

T. HOWARD AND M. J. D. STEPHENS V. SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., AS GOVERNOR.

The plaintiffs' claim was for a writ of mandamus.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), appeared for the plaintiffs, who are Thomas Howard and Matthew John Denman Stephens. The Attorney-General, Hon. W. M. Goodman (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor), appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Francis said the claim was for a writ of mandamus and the proceedings were taken under the provisions of section 85 of the code. A petition had been filed by the plaintiffs and an answer filed by the defendants, and His Lordship the Chief Justice in chambers had settled the issues arising between the parties on those pleadings and had directed that the first two of those issues, which involved the settlement of important questions of law, should be disposed of first. At the suggestion of the plaintiffs and with the consent of the learned Attorney-General it was arranged that the matter should be tried before the Full Court. The issues on the question of law, as settled by the Chief Justice, were as follows:—(1) Assuming that the property or business of the plaintiffs has suffered depreciation or been injuriously affected by reason of the works authorized by the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, does the said Ordinance throw any duty on the defendant to inquire into and assess the amount of such depreciation or injurious affecting? (2) If such a duty is thrown on the defendant is it one of which the Court, having regard to the provisions of the said Ordinance, can properly enforce the performance by a writ of mandamus? Counsel asked their Lordships' permission to slightly amend the first issue by adding after the words "Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889," the words "and assuming that the Governor has refused to investigate the plaintiffs' claim." He did not think the case could be properly argued out without having that amendment made, and he was particularly desirous to have it strictly regular because it was the intention of the plaintiffs to carry the case as far as possible. In view of a possible appeal he was very desirous of having the issues as carefully framed as possible. It must be assumed for the purpose of the argument that the plaintiffs had suffered some injuries, and it must also be assumed that the Governor had refused to perform a duty which plaintiffs alleged was incumbent on him.

The Attorney-General said he must strongly object to such an amendment being made: He would be sorry to see put on record an assumption that the Governor had not done his duty. That was one of the issues of fact which would have to be argued if the Court was of opinion that a mandamus could issue. Their Lordships on Saturday said that the parties should then suggest any alterations, but none were suggested. The amendment was quite unnecessary for the purpose of the argument, which was purely on questions of law and not of fact.

The Chief Justice—I think, Mr. Francis, that the refusal is implied in the form of the question.

Mr. Francis—Has your Lordship noticed what the Attorney-General has just said, that he has come here prepared to argue those questions of law on the assumption that the Governor had not neglected to perform his duty? That is exactly what I anticipated.

The Attorney-General—We have come here to discuss the legal aspect of two issues of law. Now my friend wants one of the issues suddenly altered. It is not fair and it is not right.

The Puisse Judge—Mr. Francis, why did you not suggest that alteration before?

Mr. Francis—Well, my Lord, it escaped my notice.

The Chief Justice—You did not think of it in time?



Mr. Francis—I did not, else I should have asked before. It was not until I was finally preparing my argument that I noticed it.

The Chief Justice (after conferring with the Puisne Judge)—We both agree that the refusal or neglect to perform the duty—assuming the duty exists—is implied in the form of the question, but if the plaintiffs wish it we see no objection to stating it more expressly. Therefore we will insert the words "And assuming that the defendant has refused or neglected to perform such duty, is the duty one of which the Court, having regard, &c."

The Attorney-General—I can only say that I strongly object to this sudden alteration at the last moment.

The Chief Justice—Mr. Attorney, we have ruled on the point. When we have ruled on a point we cannot hear you further.

The Attorney-General—You have not heard me at any length. I certainly must protest against this point.

The Chief Justice—It is not correct when the Court has ruled that counsel should get up and protest against the ruling.

The Attorney-General—Would it not be sufficient to say "assuming that the Governor should refuse or neglect?" That would raise exactly the same point and would apply to any action of the Governor in the future.

Mr. Francis—I submit it is beyond the jurisdiction of the Court to try that question.

The Chief Justice—I do not think there is any real difference. The assumption is purely a hypothesis and will not affect the merits of the case.

In reply to his Lordship Mr. Francis said he was afraid his arguments would last a considerable time.

The Attorney-General—It is very probable that long before this case gets very much further we shall have a new Governor and the Praya will be a long way in front of the plaintiffs' premises and he will have his damages assessed, as was the intention of the Government.

Mr. Francis—We do not believe in any intentions except when they are expressed in writing. I may say that the plaintiffs asked if the Government intended to extend the land and the Government refused to give them any answer.

The Attorney-General—Now we are going into the facts of the case.

The Chief Justice—You had better proceed with your arguments on the points of law, Mr. Francis.

Mr. Francis said he was afraid his arguments would extend to some considerable length. He proposed first of all to indicate very shortly his contentions on both points. First as to the construction of the Ordinance he submitted that the rule laid down in "Maxwell on Statutes," page 49, must be applied. He and his learned friend greatly differed as to the interpretation to be put upon the words of section 7 and therefore the duty of placing an interpretation upon them was unfortunately in this case imposed upon their Lordships. It was contended on the part of the defendant that that sub-section of the Ordinance, read in conjunction with the whole of the Ordinance, imposed no duty on His Excellency the Governor in respect of claims arising out of the process of the Praya Reclamation Works, and that as there was no duty imposed upon him by law therefore this Court had no power or no jurisdiction to make any order against him requiring him to give effect to his obligation as imposed by that section. The contention on behalf of the plaintiffs was that the Ordinance clearly deprived them of all other remedies in respect of any loss or depreciation they might suffer in regard to their property arising out of the Praya Reclamation works except what were provided by the Ordinance itself. The plaintiffs submitted that the Ordinance clearly empowered the Governor to give compensation to all persons injuriously affected by the works. Plaintiffs contended that if that was so the duty was necessarily imposed on him in every fit and proper case of exercising that power. If he was empowered to give compensation it was an indisputable requirement of justice that he should hear both sides, giving each an opportunity of hearing what was urged against the other, or in other words, before he could use

the powers, whether discretionary or otherwise, which were given to him, he was bound to proceed judicially. Plaintiffs contended that that discretion must be exercised not arbitrarily but in strict accordance with right and justice and established precedent; that, broadly, when any Act of Parliament—in the present case the local Ordinance—or any act of a competent Legislature, confers authority to do any judicial or any other act which the public interest or individual right might demand it was imperative on those so authorized to exercise that authority when a case arose; that the power was given for the benefit not of him who was invested with it, but for those for whom it was exercised, and that that duty was positive and absolute and not merely discretionary as to the question whether he should or should not exercise it that although the method in which the power was to be exercised and the most absolute discretion as to the result might be invested in the person on whom that power had been conferred, the duty of exercising the discretion was imperative. In this case the only possible remedy, if such a duty was imposed on the defendant, was by mandamus. Lastly, the plaintiffs contended that the Ordinance gave power or imposed an obligation on a particular person to do some particular act or duty and provided no specific remedy for non-performance, and that the Court had no more power to refuse the remedy of mandamus in this case than it had to refuse any other remedy that might be rightfully claimed. These were the points, said counsel, on which the plaintiffs relied and which he would have to develop at considerable length.

The Chief Justice—I suppose you distinguish between a legal duty and a moral duty?

Mr. Francis said he certainly did. The power was conferred on the Government for the benefit of some members of the public. When an Act of Parliament conferred a power to be exercised by any particular person for the benefit of either the public in general or some particular persons, that Act imposed upon him the exercise of that power in a special case. How he should exercise it might or might not be discretionary in accordance with the provisions of the law that imposed the duty, but that he should exercise it when properly applied to by a proper person was, according to plaintiffs' contention, absolutely imperative. Counsel submitted that no matter how wide the discretion invested in any person in matters relating to the public in general or to any section of the public, the Court would always, if the discretion had been abused, investigate it and set it right. Plaintiffs were the holders of the Crown land, Marine Lot No. 184, and the provisions in the Crown lease would be absolutely meaningless unless it was the intention of the Government to give the plaintiffs compensation in respect of the Praya Reclamation works. The power to assess the compensation did not rest with the Governor but with the Surveyor-General. Of course counsel knew that the Praya Reclamation works were really a public necessity, but it was a reclamation in the interests and for the benefit of Marine lot-holders and no-one else, and it was only for the benefit of those holders that the powers were given. It was the intention of the Legislature that no injury should be inflicted on any private person in consequence of the works, and the Ordinance had provided that compensation should be paid in case of persons injured. In carrying out these works plaintiffs had lost some of their rights; their property had been relegated to the position of a Marine Lot in a back street. Provisions were made in the Ordinance for compensating owners or persons injuriously affected by the works. The amount was estimated after investigation and detailed reports and that amount was included in the estimates and authorized to be paid under the Ordinance for all losses and injuries suffered by any persons whose wharves or piers or rights were in any way disturbed. Counsel then went very lengthily into an analysis of the Ordinance, which he said was about as stupidly framed as an Ordinance could be.

The Puisne Judge—I may be wrong, but I always thought that the Ordinance was framed for the benefit of the colony and not for the benefit of the Marine lot-holders.

Mr. Francis said primarily the Ordinance was passed for the benefit of the colony, but the reports of the meetings of the Legislative Council and the public meetings would show that the Ordinance was really passed for the benefit of the Marine lot-holders and that the Government had to spend nothing on the works. The public of the colony had to spend nothing except in respect of lots of land on the old Praya which were actually owned by the Government. The whole cost of reclaiming the buildable land, of constructing the sea walls and drains—the whole work from beginning to end was paid out of the pockets of the Marine lot-holders who signed an agreement and not out of any other pocket whatsoever. Plaintiffs asked for a mandamus, which would make the Governor investigate their case and make an award. The result of the award was of course beyond the control of the Court.

The Chief Justice—You contend that the Court can enforce the Governor to make an award?

Mr. Francis submitted that the Court could order an investigation, although in the end the award might be that plaintiffs had suffered no injury at all.

The Chief Justice—It seems to me that the plaintiffs are fighting for a shadow.

Mr. Francis—We have the most implicit belief that if the matter were properly inquired into there would be no difficulty whatever in granting compensation, and it would be found we were fighting for something substantial.

Counsel had not concluded his arguments when the Court adjourned.

#### HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on 13th January at the offices. Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police) presided and there were also present—Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

##### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

##### MORTALITY RETURNS.

For the week ended 1st January the death rate was 18.7 per thousand per annum, as against 15.8 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 8th January the rate was 18.3, as against 20.9 for the corresponding week of last year.

##### THE OBSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE LANES.

An application having been made for the renewal of a lease of property in Lan Kwai Fong Lane, the Medical Officer of Health wrote objecting to the application being granted as the property obstructed the entrance to the lane. The Director of Public Works was in favour of the renewal, as there was enough light and air in the lane and very little obstruction.

A discussion ensued.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I am afraid the Director of Public Works is not aware that for the past eighteen months this Board has been strenuously fighting for the passage through the Legislative Council of a by-law prohibiting the obstruction of private streets and lanes. That by-law has quite recently been passed. The opposition to the by-law came not unnaturally perhaps from property owners and their representatives and the sole argument against the by-law was, I believe, that the property owners would, in future, be deprived of the rentals which they might derive from such buildings built at the entrance to these streets and lanes. The arguments of the Board on the other hand, in favour of the by-law, were that the buildings obstructed light and air and were detrimental to the health of the people living in such streets. In this particular case it is not a property owner but the Government who will derive the benefit of the rental from the obstruction to the lane, and if the Board were to recommend that this application be granted it will certainly have the appearance of stultifying its action during the past eighteen months, for it would certainly lend weight to the assumption that although the Board objects to property owners deriving rents from obstruction to streets and lanes there is no objection to the Government themselves doing so. That can hardly be deemed a wise policy for this Board to adopt with regard



to the question of the lighting and ventilation in this street. I pointed out in my minute that the houses are very low—only about 25 feet high—but in accordance with Ordinance 15 of 1894 they can be considerably increased in height, and then if we have the ends of the streets blocked up there would be great danger to the public health. I move "That the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Sanitary Board advises that the application for the extension of the lease of Inland Lot 1,347 be refused."

Mr. EDE seconded and said he had very great objections to these lanes being obstructed. It was very necessary that they should have plenty of light and he entirely agreed with the remarks of the Medical Officer of Health.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It seems to me that there is force in what the Medical Officer of Health has said, but at present I cannot see that the place is obstructed.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Not very much at present, but the people are likely to raise the height of the houses very considerably.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Would you have any objection to allowing the obstruction to remain if the houses remain as they are at present?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The objection to that is that the man who owns the obstruction does not, so far as I am aware, own the houses on each side of the street.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—If it is intended to raise the houses, I quite agree with the Medical Officer of Health, but I visited the place and saw that the lane was practically clean. I examined the archway on both sides, and could not see that the houses created a nuisance. If the owner was called upon to take it down there would be considerable expense, because he would have to take down the houses on each side, and as there is not now any nuisance and the raising of the houses is a remote contingency I see no harm in extending the lease.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I agree with the Director of Public Works. It seems to me that it would be rather harsh to put a man to expense in a case where we all admit that the place is not a nuisance or an obstruction. I am afraid I cannot vote in favour of the resolution.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—It must be borne in mind, Sir, that this was originally an encroachment on Crown land and that owing to the lapse of time before it was discovered, the owner was permitted by the Government to retain the houses on payment of an annual rental until such time as it was then thought the bricks and mortar would hold together. That time has now elapsed and I think you will find that the solicitor for the applicant admits that very considerable repairs will be necessary if the lease is extended.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I move as an amendment that the lease be extended as an annual lease as long as the lane continues in its present condition and the houses are not raised.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded.

The amendment was put and the mover and seconder voted in favour of it.

The original resolution was then put and this, too, received the support of only the mover and seconder.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he would not give a casting vote, but would send both the amendment and the resolution to the Colonial Secretary.

#### A QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

Inspector Phillips applied for compensation in respect of salary received during his three months' probation. He pointed out that it was customary in the police and gaol departments to pay officers compensation in respect of salary received during the term of probation.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. EDE—I am in favour of asking the Government to grant the compensation asked for.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It is distinctly laid down that no officers, except police, on probation are to receive exchange compensation. I see no use in asking the Government to break the rule that has been recently made.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The Captain Superintendent of Police overlooks the fact that the rule as to compensation during

the term of probation did not come into force until more than six weeks after Inspector Phillips was appointed, and under the circumstances it would appear to me to be a distinct breach of faith to make it apply to his case. No such new rules ought in fairness to be made retrospective.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I am not in favour of asking the Government to break or relax a rule. If Mr. Phillips is entitled to it under any, well, let him have it, otherwise not.

In a second minute the VICE-PRESIDENT wrote—The new rule came into force on the 29th September. He has drawn compensation up to the 30th September. What I object to is to ask Government to pay him compensation after the rule came in force, i.e., from 1st Oct. to the 15th November.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the minutes the VICE-PRESIDENT pointed out that the applicant had already drawn six weeks' salary.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—This man was appointed on the understanding that while he was on probation he would receive compensation. If a rule is passed after he has joined the service I do not think it is fair that it should apply to him. When civil servants—

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It does not say in this application that he was promised compensation.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—There is no promise in regard to compensation for anybody.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I propose that the application be forwarded to the Government together with the minutes of the members.

This course was agreed to.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned until next Thursday week.

#### QUEEN'S COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

##### SPEECH BY SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.

On 4th Jan., at noon, His Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes at Queen's College. There was a very large attendance, among those present being Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice), Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary), Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge), Hon. Ho Kai, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Rev. W. Pearce, Father Torres, Mr. A. W. Brewin (Inspector of Schools), Surgeon-Colonel Evatt, &c.

The Head Master read his annual report as follows:—

1.—681 boys were admitted in the course of the past twelve months, raising the total roll from 531 in January to 1,212 in December. It is thus evident that we have in the same year been practically dealing with two separate schools, an old and a new one, each as large as the old Central Schools, whose record total attendance in 1888 was 634. It is a somewhat formidable undertaking to organise in one year an entirely new school of 600 scholars; but the task of suitably accommodating and classifying an influx of 600 new candidates for admission is even more complex.

2.—The total accommodation provided is 924 seats. We had a monthly attendance of over 900 scholars during seven months of the year, the largest numbers being 961 in September, 950 in May, 942 in June. The attendance 900 has only been touched in one previous year, viz., 1891, when the college was a novelty; in March and April of that year the figures 919, 932, were attained, to fall however before its close to 744, whereas in December last 866 boys were present.

3.—This sudden access of numbers is due to a natural spontaneous cause, which we may therefore reasonably expect to prove abiding. A demand for European education has arisen, during the last two years, throughout the length and breadth of China. Native English-teaching schools have sprung up in Canton, Swatow, and the neighbourhood of Macao, while even in Yokohama the Chinese community are about to open a school, where English, Japanese and Chinese will be taught.

4.—It is a matter of congratulation to the Government that the original estimate of 700

seats, made by Dr. Stewart in 1882, was not adhered to. Ten years ago, I recommended 770 as a minimum, and subsequently 924 as a maximum accommodation; alleging as a reason the overcrowding in the Central School, owing to the want of capacity in the building to meet the demand, increasing every decade. From a financial point of view, too, it must be satisfactory to have 224 extra monthly fees, without additional cost in the way of increased staff.

5.—My experience at the old Central School with its 450 boys taught me that it was only when the demand exceeded the supply that regular attendance could be enforced with the necessary strictness. Chinese are like most other people, they value most what there is some difficulty in obtaining. If a guardian finds that his boy's seat, vacated for some trivial cause, is taken in his absence by another, he learns to respect the exigencies of school routine. I am therefore glad to draw attention to a pronounced improvement this year in attendance.

6.—The total amount of fees collected this year has been \$13,460, or \$3,500 in excess of last year's revenue from this source, and beating the previous record in 1895 of \$12,667. It should be remembered that the largest amount of fees collected in the Old Central School was \$6,899 in 1888, and prior to my arrival in 1882, \$4,051 in 1881.

7.—It should be manifest that the introduction of so many new boys has necessitated very rapid promotions; this will be the more evident when it is understood, that of the 587 new boys (not including 94 re-admissions) 443 went to the Preparatory, 115 to the Lower, and 29 to the Upper School, 22 of these last being admitted to the non-Chinese classes. As a consequence 8 boys from Class IV. were examined in Class II., 24 from Class V. in Class III., and 10 more remarkable still, 23 boys from Class VII. were examined in Class IV., and 12 from Class VIII. in Class V. From these specimens, the intensity of the upward impetus may perhaps be estimated.

8.—Three little books on English conversation were prepared by myself, at the instance of the Governing Body, and printed at the expense of the Government early in the year. But as the cost necessitated excess of the amount provided for this item, the Government more than re-imbursed itself by selling to scholars the balance of these stores in hand. His Excellency the Governor then approved of my recommendation that all books, published in the colony for the express use of this college, should cease to be included in school stores, the expense of which is defrayed by the fees paid in vacation months. Scholars were therefore instructed to procure such books for themselves at shops.

9.—The immediate result was that a very useful bilingual vocabulary long in use in manuscript form, prepared by the Second Master (Mr. A. J. May) was approved by the Governing Body and published.

10.—Towards the end of the year, I submitted three suggestions, which on the recommendation of the Governing Body received His Excellency's approval. The object aimed at in all of them was the same, viz., the increase of English-teaching power throughout the college, as follows:—In the Preparatory School, by abolishing monitors and appointing an extra Chinese assistant; in the Lower School, by relieving English masters of mathematical lessons in the Upper School, a competent native mathematical master to be appointed, thus leaving the English masters at liberty to give lessons in English reading, &c., to classes in the Lower School; in the College generally, by increasing the English staff by two masters. The scheme is to divide the assistant masters into two grades, senior and junior, four in each, thus providing eight instead of six English masters, at a slight additional cost to Government, the services of two Chinese assistants being of course dispensed with. Mr. Jameson's resignation affords opportunity for the appointment of one of these additional masters, the full realisations of the project having to await a further vacancy in the senior grade.

11.—Mr. Jameson, absent on leave, resolved not to return to the colony, as he has found the climate prejudicial to his health; he accordingly



resigned from the 30th September. During his nine years' service, he proved himself a capable and energetic master, all the classes under his charge passing with very high percentages at the annual examinations. The college experienced another serious loss in the untimely death, last August, of Mr. Chu Tsun-ching, third Chinese assistant, for many years most successfully in charge of the fourth class. Mr. Chu was head boy of the second class at the first annual examination conducted by me on my arrival in January, 1882, and with one exception was the oldest of the Chinese assistants who began their professional career under my management. Being of a bright, cheerful disposition, he was a general favourite with the whole staff, English and Chinese. Mr. Barclay, who acted for Mr. Jameson, left in July on obtaining an appointment as head master of an English school at Nanking. We were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Hankey in October, to supply the vacancy. Mr. Wood, cook, returned from leave in the middle of October. In September Mr. Jones, who returned from leave in January, was temporarily transferred to the Supreme Court, as we then were daily expecting Mr. Jameson's return.

12.—The rapid promotions amongst the Chinese staff call for some remark. Mr. Luk Sik-kwong, who was second pupil teacher last January, is now Acting 6th Chinese Assistant, which represents a rise of seven steps in twelve months. No fewer than 17 different men were acting monitors and pupil teachers. Considerable strain has therefore been put on all the junior Chinese assistants and pupil teachers, which was further intensified by the backwardness of their pupils (par 7). It affords me much pleasure to be able to speak very highly of the steady courage which they exhibited in coping with these difficulties.

13.—Four boys, none of whom was in Chinese dress, obtained Oxford Local certificates, two Senior and two Junior. As this represents only 18 per cent. instead of our usual 50 per cent., the result is very disappointing. The depletion of the Upper School, referred to in my last report, is the chief cause, as may be gathered from the fact that only seven boys remained in December to represent I.A. and I.B. classes together.

14.—The Hongkong Branch of the Navy League awarded two prizes of \$20 each to C.B. Hayward and R. Pestonjee respectively for successful essays on the subjects "The Command of the Sea" and "The Use of the British Navy." The Chairman at the annual meeting paid a well-deserved compliment to Mr. Machell on the instruction given by him to the boys in six lectures. I cannot do better than seize this opportunity for recording my appreciation of the improvement in the general work of I.C. in the past year.

15.—On my return from Japan, in September, I noticed that the entire interior of the building had been coloured and painted. For this we are indebted to the activity of the Acting Director of Works (Hon. W. Chatham), as previously it had been considered impossible to perform this feat within the limits of the vacation—four weeks. Keeping the interior of a school bright and fresh is not a luxury, it conduces largely to the cheerfulness and health of scholars and masters. I would suggest therefore that, if practicable, the interior should be at least colour-washed once in four or five years. It is nearly twice that period of time since the original painting of this building.

16.—I regret to have to report that there is no abatement in the immoral notoriety of the immediate neighbourhood of this College, mentioned in my annual report two years ago. It would appear that existing legislation is too cumbersome a machine to set in motion for the removal of a well known and generally admitted nuisance from a district in the vicinity of several public buildings, a hospital, a chapel, a large boys' school, and the Belknap Public School for Girls.

After reading the report Dr. BATESON WRIGHT said—I have now the pleasure, Sir, of welcoming you here. This is the seventh occasion on which it has been possible for you to attend the prize distribution here and, as far as I remember, there was only one occasion on which you were unable to be present. I do not think any other Governor has been present

at this function on so many occasions. I now ask you to kindly distribute the prizes.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR distributed the prizes and then said—Boys of Queen's College, I have been here five or six times, as Dr. Wright has informed you, and I have on each occasion spoken to you after the distribution of the prizes, but I have very great pleasure this morning in saying that although it gives me the greatest possible delight to give away all these prizes I have been relieved of the most difficult task by the kindness of Sir JOHN CARRINGTON (Chief Justice). He has kindly consented to address you on education. One of his hobbies is education, and he knows more about it than I do, and therefore I will call upon him to take the place I have taken during the past six years. (Applause.)

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, who was most cordially received, said—Your Excellency, Dr. Wright, ladies and gentlemen, boys of Queen's College, this is the first time I have had the pleasure of addressing you, and I hope it will not be the last time. My title to address you consists, in the first place, in the kindness of His Excellency the Governor in asking me to say a few words to you to-day. My title in the second place consists in what His Excellency has referred to—the great interest I feel in the subject of education generally, and, I may say, especially my great belief in the advantages for a boy of a well-spent school life. (Applause.) His Excellency was distributing the prizes a few days ago at the Diocesan School and Orphanage and he was good enough to say then that it was a nice thing to be a Chief Justice. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I suppose it is in many ways a good thing to be a Chief Justice, but I will say this, that if it happens that I am a Chief Justice it is directly and absolutely owing to the fact that while I was at school I was a very painstaking, industrious, and steady boy. (Applause.) Now you will forgive me for not telling you that story at length, because it is a personal matter. Well, it is a nice thing to be a Chief Justice; it is a nicer thing to be a Governor. (Laughter and Applause.) You will all admit that; and I have very little doubt that His Excellency is a Governor while I am only a Chief Justice simply because while at school he was a more painstaking, industrious boy than I was. (Laughter and Applause.) However, I do not stand here to speak about these more or less personal matters, but I stand here to speak from a text which is furnished by the report of the examiners who have recently conducted the examination of this school. You are all aware, of course, that within the last few weeks you have been passing under the hands of Mr. Cobbold and Mr. Pearce, and I will read to you the following extract from their very interesting report: "We strongly recommend the increased study of the English language and as far as possible under English masters. Believing that the large number of admissions during the last year has been chiefly due to the increasing desire on the part of the Chinese to receive an English education we trust that the College will be fully able to meet their demand." Now, boys, when I came to this colony about twenty months ago I was very much struck by the general ignorance of the English language which prevailed among the Chinese population of Hongkong. You go into a shop and the shopman can hardly attend your order because he does not know English. You go into Chinatown and ask your way about and not a man can tell you. You get a No. 1 boy as your servant. He may speak English, but if he does it is English that you can hardly understand. In the Supreme Court out of fifty witnesses there may be one who can speak English correctly. That is a strange state of things, and we look to Queen's College to remedy that state of things. Queen's College is the head of the educational system of the colony. It is a large and well equipped Government institution, and I think we have a right to expect that English should be thoroughly well taught in this school and that, consistent with the time he stays in the school, no boy should leave its doors without having an adequate knowledge of the English language. That is a thing, I think, we should all aim at in this school. His Excellency has for several years now impressed this point upon the masters of the

school and upon the scholars in his annual address. His Excellency sometime ago appointed a Governing Body especially charged with this matter. The Governing Body have, as far as practicable, endeavoured to carry out those wishes, and I, as a member, wish to say that we have always met with the most cordial support in this respect from Dr. Bateson Wright, the head master. (Applause.) I have no doubt that our efforts will be crowned with success and that by and by it will be said that English is thoroughly and successfully taught in Queen's College. I think we have a right to expect that you boys should give your minds to this matter. This is a British colony; most of you are British subjects—have British mothers and fathers—and we have a right to see that you speak your mother tongue. It is right to do so. You come to this school, which was started by the British Government, and we have a right to demand that you should give your attention to and endeavour to learn the English language. That is a point of duty. There is also the point of self interest. Now is the time to realize that it will be for your benefit and advantage as men when you grow up if you get a sufficient acquaintance and knowledge of the English language. (Applause.) Just consider the avenues of employment and usefulness that will be open to you by your doing so. You will more readily obtain employment in the hongs in the colony and the hongs up and down the coast. You will more readily find employment in the Government service of this colony or in the Government service of the great Chinese Empire. For example, take His Excellency Wu Ting-fang, who received his English education in this colony, or at any rate he was Anglicized in this colony and who is now the successful Minister of the Chinese Empire to the United States of America. (Applause.) More and more the Chinese Government will be getting to realize the importance and value of having servants who are acquainted with Western knowledge and Western science, and we believe that you can get that here, and that if you get it thoroughly and well you will have a better chance of employment in the great Government of the neighbouring empire. I exhort you and put it to you to abandon the idea altogether—if you have the idea—that it is not wise and proper for you to become anglicized. English is becoming more and more the universal language of the world. English people dominate the trade of these far Eastern seas. Bear this matter in mind and I am quite sure you will realize the benefits that will accrue to you by having a thorough knowledge of the English language and of English literature and Western science. I have already kept you some time on that topic and I hope you will bear in mind what I have said and what was said on the subject, to my knowledge, last year. I should now like to say one word with regard to your studies and conduct. I have often said similar words to boys on occasions of this kind and I suppose boys think us a little tiresome. They think that we old men want to put old heads on young shoulders. But that is not the case; such an operation must fail. We do not want to do that, but a little sound wholesome advice from those who have gone further along the field of life than you have cannot do wrong if you will listen to it and endeavour to take it in. My advice to you is, make the most of your school time. Remember always that the boy is father of the man. Remember that your success in life may depend to a great extent on the way in which you conduct yourself at school, on the way in which you master your lessons, on the way in which you behave to your fellow-boys, and on the way in which you behave to your masters. All these are elements in the making of the future man. Now, those of you who have got prizes, do not think that you have achieved the end of life. There is a great deal more to be done even at school. Do not let your success fall away while pursuing your studies. Let it be an incentive to do your work more and more thoroughly. Those who have not got prizes suffer a disappointment for the time being, but you must make up your mind that next time you will get prizes, and remember that you can all so carry through your studies as to make



the master of your class say, when the prize-giving time comes again, "We cannot give prizes to all, because that is not in the nature of things, but we can say that all the boys in our class are thoroughly deserving of prizes." That is the knowledge that is within the reach of you all. While I made those remarks to you about English I did not want to suggest to you that you should not also keep up and improve your knowledge of Chinese. That would be a very great mistake. Of course we know that the Chinese have a very old and illustrious civilization. They have a very illustrious lot of writers of classical books of distinction, and it would be to your advantage to keep up your knowledge of the language. Naturally you must do that if you want to obtain a position in China, and even in this colony it would be unwise in any way to abandon your pursuit of the Chinese language and literature. Let the two go side by side. Take the case of a German. We know well enough that a well educated German knows his mother tongue thoroughly, and English thoroughly, and probably French thoroughly, and that fact has undoubtedly given the Germans a very great advantage in regard to commerce. You boys will find it within your province to acquire a knowledge of the English language alongside of your Chinese, and let the two go together. You have here on the platform a gentleman who has been a very kind patron of this school. That is His Excellency the Governor. (Applause.) I confess it seems to me a very remarkable thing that the Governor should have on nearly every occasion of the annual prize-giving been here to encourage the boys of the school and the masters of the school by distributing the prizes and addressing the boys. When he goes away from this colony he may reflect on that as being a very good thing he has done. The Queen's instructions, if I remember rightly, impress upon a Governor in very emphatic terms that he is to do his utmost for the benefit of education. Now, ladies and gentlemen, his Excellency, in the course of the next fortnight or so, will be leaving the shores of Hongkong, and probably we shall never see him again. We are all very grateful to him for the interest he has taken in this school. Dr. Wright was to discharge this office, but I ask him to concede it to me, and I will ask you now to signify your gratitude and your good wishes for his future life wherever his lot may lie by giving three hearty cheers for His Excellency the Governor.

The cheers were most enthusiastically given. His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Ladies and gentlemen and boys of Queen's College. I told you that His Honour the Chief Justice would make a very much better speech than I can and by the sensible remarks he has made to you he has proved that my opinion of him was perfectly correct and justified. I was very glad to hear from Dr. Wright's report that the progress in the English language since I last spoke to you in 1896 very strongly on the subject has been very considerable, and that Chinese schools for the teaching of English have been opened in Swatow, Amoy, Canton, and other parts of the Chinese Empire. I must thank you most sincerely for the hearty cheers which you have just given to me. I can assure you I have always had the greatest pleasure in coming to Queen's College, and when I am in England I shall look out for the reports from Hongkong, and anything from Queen's College will give me the very greatest possible interest. I trust you boys will really become British subjects. As His Honour said, the English language will be the universal language of the world, and there is no doubt that British interests are increasing every day in the Chinese Empire. I have to thank you all for your very great kindness and I bid you all farewell. (Applause.)

Cheers were then called for Dr. Wright and they were heartily given.

Dr. BATESON WRIGHT then said he should like to make some remarks about the progress of education in Queen's College during the six years of his Excellency's office. He (Dr. Wright) fancied there was a general impression that schoolmasters were very liable to "run in a rut" and to adhere to one line of action. Therefore it was very

necessary that they should be stirred up and urged to consider changes and alterations which they might not like at first. But at the same time he would not like anyone to believe that the boys who left Queen's College could not speak English in a decent manner. Dr. Wright continued.—I think that if His Honour had addressed a few of the clerks in the Supreme Court or in the neighbouring office, the Registrar-General's, he would find men who were trained in this school and who could talk English with reasonably idiomatic power, and I fancy he must not judge that every Chinaman he meets in the street was educated at Queen's College. (Laughter). That is not a fact. If the Government wish all the people in Hongkong to talk English the only thing would be to adopt the system in vogue in England and have free education. Men in the shops are so poor that they cannot afford money for education, and boys who come here find it very hard to pay their fees. Thousands of boys whom the Inspector of Schools referred to as not receiving any education certainly do not, while many receive only a Chinese education, and therefore your Excellency has said that only boys taught in English shall receive grants-in-aid. I am satisfied that during the last four or five years we have derived very great benefit from your kind suggestions, and the assistance of the Governing Body has proved very beneficial in carrying out important changes such as the appointment of additional masters. You have to remember that there are twenty-two classes here and at present there are only six English masters to teach those twenty-two classes. I am sure, Sir, that we shall remember your kindness in addressing us so often and I trust that in two or three years' time, when you receive the annual report from Hongkong, you may observe further improvement. (Applause.)

#### DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

On 12th Jan., at noon, his Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes to scholars attending the Diocesan School and Orphanage. There was a large attendance of pupils, their parents, and their friends.

On the arrival of His Excellency, who was accompanied by Captain Phillips, A.D.C., the school-drum and fife band played "God Save the Queen."

Rev. R. F. Cobbold—Your Excellency, in the absence of the Bishop it devolves upon me as acting manager of this school now to invite the head master to read to you his annual report.

Mr. G. Piercy, Junr., then read his report for 1897 as follows:—

School was taught on 249 week days; the scholars numbered 185, being 11 less than the previous year, but the average daily attendance was 100.58 as compared with 91.75 in 1896, and our highest on record. Eleven candidates entered for the Oxford University Local Examinations in July and eight passed, viz., five in the junior, three in the preliminary. E. S. Ford attained to second class honours, being the first Hongkong candidate to do so. He was specially distinguished in "English" and was bracketed third in that subject in the British Empire. 85 boys were present at the annual Government examination on 15th and 16th December by the new Inspector of Schools: 70 passed or 82.35 per cent. as compared with 97 per cent. in 1894, and 89 in 1895. (Dr. Eitel was too ill to examine the school in 1896). In English History, Elementary Science, Drawing, and Copy Writing 100 per cent passed; in Reading, 98.8; Algebra, 97.2; Geography, 89.4; English Grammar, 81.6; Dictation, 80.3; Arithmetic, 78.8; English Composition, 68.4; Euclid, 63.2; Physical Geography, 58.8 per cent.; in Mensuration one boy passed, one failed. These results compare unfavourably with former years and will reduce our grant considerably. The questions were very difficult, as for instance, the V. Standard boys were expected to understand and analyse this sentence, "In the true aspect of things, too often neglected by us, we are all paupers in the almshouse of this world, without dignity, without skill, or industry." It is difficult for Chinese boys to write good idiomatic English and consequently the failures in Composition were many. In May the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League kindly offered prizes to the

value of \$40 for essays on "The Command of the Sea," and "The use of the British Navy." Eighteen essays were submitted to the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., who kindly undertook the duties of adjudicator. Our thanks are due to the Navy League and its Hon. Secretary for their generosity. During the year four certificates have been awarded by the London College of Music to our boys. Of these three were of the first class, one with honours. Four certificates were also awarded by the Tonio Solfa College, London, for singing and theory of music. All the candidates presented in Music were successful. At the last examination of the London College of Music, there were five entries from this school, but the results are not yet published. There has been no difficulty in procuring situations for boys who are ready to leave school; the difficulty is to induce them to remain till their education may be considered finished. A scheme like the Government Scholarship is greatly needed to keep boys at school to a later age. In July Mr. J. R. Barclay left us after three years' diligent service to take up an appointment at a Chinese College in Nanking. The other members of the teaching staff, Messrs Blayney and Ralphs, have done most excellent work and materially helped to maintain the efficiency of the school. Our thanks are due to your Excellency for a series of photographs of Niagara Falls, and to the Hongkong Cricket Club for a gift of three bats. As dollars depreciate the prices of prizes advance, but through the liberality of Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G., Hon. W. M. Goodman, Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., and Messrs. Fung Wa Chuen, D. Gillies, Ho Tung T. Jackson, A. P. MacEwen, A. Mackie, G. Sharp, W. Whaley, and "Three Old Boys," we are again able to ask your Excellency to distribute our prizes. On the eve of your departure from the colony we beg to thank you for the interest you have always taken in this institution.

The following is the Examiner's Report in Holy Scripture:—

I have examined the boys in the Diocesan School in Holy Scripture and I am glad to report that taken as a whole they have done very well. Some of the boys have obtained very high marks indeed, particularly C. Olson in Form IV. and Edwin Long in Form V. G. Benning in Form VII. wrote an excellent paper which does both himself and his teacher great credit. There are some weak papers amongst the Chinese boys, but the general result of the examination is very satisfactory and shows that great care is taken in this department.—W. BANISTER, Secretary, Church Missionary Society.

After presenting the prizes His Excellency the Governor said—Ladies and Gentlemen, you have all heard the report read by Mr. Piercy. It seems to me that it is a matter in one case for rejoicing and in another for regret. It is very pleasant to find, for instance, that there was the highest attendance on record in this school during the last term. It is also very pleasant to find that the first of the second class honours has been won in Hongkong by E. G. Ford for the first time. I think a young lady won the third class, which proves that the male ascendancy can come to the front occasionally. Ford is to be congratulated very highly on his success. In elementary science, drawing, and copy writing 100 per cent. passed. It is a matter for regret that the Government grant has been considerably reduced, which was owing doubtless to the difficult examination the boys were subjected to. I am very glad I was not asked to analyse the sentence Mr. Piercy has just read out. To me personally it is also very satisfactory to see that four certificates have been awarded by the London College of Music to the boys, and of these three are of the first class, and one of them is with honours. That is very satisfactory indeed. I am very glad indeed to come here to present the prizes, all of which are very handsome, and for which the school is indebted to Sir John Carrington, The Attorney-General, Hon. E. R. Belilios, and other gentlemen. It also gives me very great pleasure to know that the boys in this school have passed so well in Holy Scripture. I do not think I have anything more to say in reference to the report, but I suppose I must say something



to the boys. Mr. Piercy has told you that I have been here on several previous occasions. This is not the first time I have given away the prizes here; I think it is the fourth or fifth time. At any rate it will be the last occasion, as I shall be leaving the colony on the 1st February and probably I shall not see any of you again. I want to speak to you about success in life. I hope none of you boys think that the end and aim of life is to make money. I know the world thinks that if a man is rich he is successful, but if he is poor or makes no money he is a failure. I hope none of you take such a pitiful view of failure and success as that. There are two kinds of success—worldly success and failure and eternal success and failure. Boys who have passed so well in Scripture will remember the story of the rich and successful man, who went to our Saviour and said, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Our Saviour's answer was, "Go and sell all thou hast and give to the poor." The man went away very sorrowful, for he was very rich and nobody believes that he accepted that good advice which was given to him. And boys, you recollect the poor widow, who threw her mite into the poor box, and I think you boys will guess which of these two people was held in the highest esteem in the sight of God. Now worldly success is a very good thing. It is very nice to be a Governor, or a Chief Justice, or an Attorney-General, or a Bishop, as I hope your friend Mr. Cobbold will be one of these days—it is quite within the limit of expectation. I have no doubt you boys will recollect the story of Robert Bruce. He fought against the English in no less than eight battles and his army was dispersed and he fled on every occasion. One day he was thinking sorrowfully about his reverses and whilst hiding in a cave he saw it is said, a little spider weaving its web at the top of the cave. He saw the spider swing its line one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight times, and each time it missed its mark, but at the ninth shot it succeeded. Bruce, on seeing this, said, "I am not going to be beaten by a spider," so he collected all his troops and won his ninth battle against the English. So, my boys, never be daunted by a failure. But there is a greater success than that of Robert Bruce. We are not here to rush through the crowd and get as many plums as we can out of the world's cake. We are here to do good and that is what I wish to bring before you boys to-day. Pray be obedient to your teachers. Conquer yourself your idle habits, and any bad traits that you have in your character, and try to make this little corner of the world a little brighter, better, and happier than it is. Always be obedient to your teachers, to your parents, to your brothers and sisters, and they will so influence you as to make you and the world happier. I have to thank Mr. Piercy for asking me to come here, and I may say it has given me a great deal of pleasure to distribute the prizes. No good work ever fails. A kind word, a penny dropped into the missionary box, any kind act of that sort is a treasure and brings its own reward with it. So I say to you boys, aim high. Fight for the right and you will succeed. Failure is quite impossible if you are strenuous in all your attempts to do good. What does the poet say?—

"Noble effort cannot fail;

Truth is great and shall prevail."

In conclusion I wish you boys a happy holiday and I trust I may hear, when I am in England, that the school is making great progress under the able management of Mr. Piercy and his assistant masters. (Loud Applause).

Rev. R. F. Cobbold—Before we part I wish to express our thanks to His Excellency for his very great kindness in coming here to-day, which he has done so often before, and for the exceedingly kind words which he always speaks to us—to you boys particularly—and especially for his kind helpful words which he has spoken to-day. We regret very much that this is the last occasion he will be here to help us in this way. He has referred very kindly to the possible success of this school in the future and has with further kindness said he will always take an interest in it. If we are fortunate to attain the success such as he desires to hear of I think it will be very largely due to the following of the wise, good, and kind advice he has

given to-day. Before I sit down I should like to express the thanks of the Committee and the Management of this school to all those who have helped us during the year. There are those who have subscribed—we hear very little of them—towards the upkeep of the school, because you must remember that the school has no endowment and is entirely dependent on school fees, Government grant, and subscriptions. Our thanks are also due to the prize givers and to Mr. Bannister for his kindness in conducting the Scripture examination which in previous years I had the privilege of conducting myself. We must not forget to thank Mr. and Mrs. Piercy for their able management of the school and also the assistant masters. We regret to say that before long we shall lose one of our masters, not that he is going away from the colony, but that he is going to another place to carry on the good work which he has done so well here. I have now to invite any of our friends who are here to-day to inspect our buildings, and if they walk round the buildings I hope they will walk into one of the class rooms, where a number of drawings are on view. Some of them, especially those by Chinese hands, are really admirable. To you, boys, I have an announcement to make which I am sure will give you pleasure. Your holidays begin to-day and they will last until the 14th February, when I trust you will be back here. While you are away please remember that you have a duty to perform to your school. Some of you go a very great distance, some remain in the colony, and some remain in this building. Whether you are here or whether you are away remember that your conduct reflects either creditably or discredibly on the school to which you belong and to which I hope you are attached. With these remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I will ask you to express in your heartiest manner our combined thanks to His Excellency the Governor for his kindness in coming here to-day.

The boys returned thanks by prolonged applause and then raised cheers for the Queen, for Mr. Cobbold, and for Mr. and Mrs. Piercy.

The following are the honours won by pupils in 1897:—

OXFORD UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

Junior:—E. S. Ford (2nd Class Honours bracketed 3rd in "English"), G. Benning, W. A. Lewis, W. Reiner, R. H. Waller.

Preliminary:—E. R. Hertton, Li Chi-on, J. Olson.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

Theory of Music.

Junior Pass Section:—E. S. Ford, 1st class.

Pianoforte-Playing.

Intermediate Section:—E. S. Ford, 1st Class; C. E. Hastings, 1st Class (Honours); W. J. Clerihew, 1st Class.

TONIC SOLFA COLLEGE, LONDON.

Singing: Elementary:—E. S. Ford.

Theory of Music: Elementary:—A. J. Mackie.

Staff Notation: Elementary:—E. S. Ford.

NAVY LEAGUE ESSAYS.

"Command of the Sea": (1) G. Benning, \$12;

(2) W. A. Lewis, \$8.

"Use of the British Navy": (1) E. S. Ford, \$12; (2) R. H. Waller, \$8.

CLASS PRIZES.

VII Standard:—E. S. Ford.

VI Standard:—Li Chi-on.

V Standard:—Chau Yam-tung.

IV Standard:—Choy Po-sin.

III Standard:—Leung Cheung.

II Standard:—(1) Lam Shik; (2) W. Blumenberg.

I Standard:—(1) Chin Tah-fan; (2) Ch'au Him-shan.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Drawing:—IV., Lam Tso-on.

Singing:—V., Hans Moore.

Drum and Fife Band:—Fifes:—B. Henriquez. Drums:—J. R. Wong.

Algebra and Euclid:—VI., Li Chi-on.

Physical Geography:—V., R. T. Strangman.

VI., J. E. Piercy.

Algebra:—IV., Choy Po-sin.

Physical Drill:—J. R. Wong.

Map Drawing:—V., Chan Yam-teng.

Good Conduct (awarded by ballot):—G. Benning.

SCRIPTURE PRIZES.

VII Standard:—G. Benning.

VI Standard:—John Olson.

V Standard:—Edwin Long.

IV Standard:—Charles Olson.

III Standard:—F. Moore.

II Standard:—J. Thomas.

I Standard:—H. Jex.

## EXECUTION OF THE BURD STREET MURDERERS.

The three men, In Ming, Wan Shek Ki, and Wan Shun, who were sentenced to death at the last Criminal Sessions for murdering a man in Burd Street, were hanged on the morning of 12th Jan. in Victoria Gaol. Not having received passes the representatives of the Press were relieved of the unpleasant duty of having to attend the execution.

The inquest was held at noon the same day by Hon. H. E. Wodehouse. The jurors were Messrs. G. H. Thompson, R. Lang, and C. F. Harton.

Chief Warder Craig said the execution took place at 6.15 a.m. and was carried out by six officers of the gaol staff. The executions were simultaneous. There were present in addition to witness and the other officers, Deputy Superintendent Howe and Dr. Thomson.

Dr. Thomson said that death was practically instantaneous, the cause of death being dislocation of the neck, thereby causing compression and rupture of the spinal cord.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

## A CAVE DWELLER IN HONGKONG.

LIVING ON LEAVES AND WATER.

A curious specimen of fallen humanity was literally unearthed at Morrison Hill on Sunday night by a Hongkong police constable. This fragment of society was found in a cave which he had himself dug out and in which he had been existing, according to his own story, for two months, during which his food consisted solely of leaves and water. It is difficult to name his nationality. He speaks a language which is more French than English, but it is certain he is neither French nor English. He doesn't know, or pretends not to know, where he was born. His skin is very dark and almost as black as his hair, which is somewhat long and not very clean. His clothes threaten every minute to fall from his limbs, and his bare feet appear as if they had never been encased in boots. How he came to Hongkong is about the only point on which he seems to have definite knowledge. He says he came here in an American three-masted sailing ship from Honolulu. The captain ill-treated him and he refused to go back, preferring the seclusion of a cave to any ship's forecastle. His hands, which are like lumps of catgut, certainly suggest much handling of heavy ropes, so the story of his importation is doubtless true. He must have had a terrible experience since his arrival here and yet he seemed perfectly happy and contented. His philosophy was supreme. He had no money to rent a room and he turned to and made his own house. He obtained an old oar and with the aid of the broad, sharp blade dug out a cave in the face of a bank in Morrison Hill. The entrance to the cave was about a foot and a half wide, and the cave itself was about ten feet by three feet. His furniture consisted simply of his trusty old oar. In this earthen hollow he lived undisturbed for two months. Two raw potatoes were found in the cave, but he says he ate only the leaves of the surrounding trees and drank water, and when he was not doing one of these things he slept. But for the policeman he would have been there yet and perhaps he would have eventually died there. He was found by Police Constable Hoggarth, who took him to the police station, where he had the fortune to fall in the hands of a good Samaritan. He complained of violent pains in his stomach and Inspector Mann applied efficacious remedies in the shape of wholesome spirits. The pain was allayed and then the outcast was feasted with port wine, eggs, and bread and butter. He ate ravenously and even the egg shells disappeared down his throat. At the Police Court on Monday he



gave a most incomplete account of himself to the Magistrate, who sent him to the house of detention after remarking that steps would be taken to get him on board an American ship.

### THE REBELLION IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

#### MAT SALLEH REPORTED TO BE SHOT.

The latest news from North Borneo is that Mat Salleh has been shot in one of his legs and, like the man who would be king in one of Kipling's stories, has consequently lost faith with the natives. The information that Mat Salleh had been wounded and was looked upon as a mere man and not a God was conveyed in a letter received on 17th January by a gentleman living in Hongkong. Inquiries on the steamer *Deucalion* failed to satisfactorily confirm the news, although the people on board had heard the interesting rumour. We hope it is true.

The *Plover* has been patrolling the coast near Labuan and an interesting rumour has been spread concerning her. It is said that forty men were landed to guard the coast and sentries were given instructions to allow no native boats to pass without being searched. One day a native boat containing four men was seen and the sentry called upon them to stop. The natives had not received an English education and they hurled back some words in Malay. The sentry of course did not understand a single word and he repeated his orders for the boat to stop. The men kept on pulling and some of the *Plover's* men were ordered to fire on the boat. The consequence was that two of the natives were killed. We give this story for what it is worth. People who came from Borneo on 17th January had heard of it but were not able to vouch for its accuracy.

When the *Deucalion* left preparations were being made for an assault on Mat Salleh's forts at his headquarters, Pqoga Yah, on the 11th inst.

#### ANOTHER STATION CAPTURED.

(Special to *Singapore Free Press*.)

Labuan, 1st January.

A certain native named Talleh, a Kedian prisoner, having escaped from custody at Sandakan, raised a small Bornean force in the interior, and advanced against Limbawang, a Government station on the Padas river.

This place Talleh attacked and captured on the 29th instant, one Sikh being killed during the fight.

Mr. F. W. Fraser, a North Borneo cadet who was in charge of the district, escaped. He is now returning to Limbawang with a force of eight Police and thirty-five Dyaks.

It is not yet known whether Talleh is acting under Mat Salleh's orders.

The *Free Press* has the following article in reference to the above:—

To the recent insurrectionary attacks on Gaya and Ambong, two stations on the coast of Province Keppel, in the jurisdiction of the British North Borneo Government, there is now, as our special telegram will show, to be added yet another attack upon and capture of an inland station in the north part of Province Dent, named Limbawang. Two considerations make this a serious affair for the North Borneo Government. One is that it has occurred as the immediate sequel of a very serious repulse of a military police force, in the effort to storm a strong stockade and blockhouse held by Mat Salleh, the troublesome outlaw who is responsible for the Gaya and Ambong incidents. Another consideration is, that this later affair at Limbawang is not yet ascertained to have been directly associated with Mat Salleh's action, but is possibly an independent effort of another leader; this, therefore, all the more requiring strong steps on the part of the North Borneo Government to successfully vindicate its authority, and strike a counterblow sufficiently definite in its results to quell any further revolt, so easy to propagate amongst the Bornean tribes, in default of any such action on the part of the Sandakan Government. The scene of this last reported episode is, as stated, at Limbawang, which is a district officer's station about thirty miles or so up the Padas River, an affluent of Brunei Bay. This place is therefore within easy reach of Labuan, and is not far from the scene

of the troubles the North Borneo Government had with the Pangeran Shabandar, on the Padas Damit, from about October, 1888, to February, 1889. On that occasion Governor Creagh applied for the help of Major Walker from Perak, or Capt. Newland, then Commander Johore Forces, but neither of these requests could be complied with, although a Perak seven-pounder and a couple of rocket tubes, with a small detachment of Perak gunners under a Havildar, were lent to North Borneo. The leader of the native rebels on this last occasion appears to have been an escaped prisoner of the Kedian tribe, one Talleh, who seems to have made his way across country from Sandakan towards Brunei, and to have raised a small force of natives, possibly Muruts from the Ulu Padas, having conceived the idea of a raid on Limbawang. Here there appears to have been one official, Mr. Fraser, a cadet in the North Borneo service, with perhaps a small guard of three or four Sikhs. The station was probably suddenly rushed, and the attack being in greatly superior force and entirely unexpected, there was no chance of successful resistance. Mr. Fraser made good his escape, fortunately, but one of the Sikh guard was killed during the attack. What money or property the raiders under Talleh may have got possession of is not stated. But it is not likely that the raiders will have been long undisturbed, as Mr. Fraser would have been able to proceed in a short time to Mempakol, and thence wire to Labuan for more assistance, in addition to the Dyaks he could pick up from the coast, of which he appears to have secured thirty, as well as eight Police, who, however, would not all be Sikhs. The situation on the West Coast is so grave that, we hear from an authoritative source, Mr. Beaufort has proceeded from Sandakan to Labuan so as to be nearer the quarter where action is demanded. It is now quite certain that the usual British principle of using handfuls of men for what may prove bigger jobs than was expected, does not always come off, though it pays far more often than it is reasonable to hope for, owing to the pluck of the leaders and the almost invariable fidelity and spirit of the men led.

### SINGAPORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND A GOLD CURRENCY.

#### A TWO SHILLING DOLLAR RECOMMENDED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SINGAPORE, 13th January.

At a meeting of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce held to-day it was resolved that a two shilling gold dollar was desirable in the Straits. It was further resolved that the Government be requested to take the necessary steps to give effect to the resolution.

An amendment asking for further enquiry to be made was defeated by seventeen votes to fourteen.

### THE CITY HALL.

The annual meeting of shareholders in and subscribers to the City Hall was held in the Library, City Hall, on 14th Jan. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, H. N. Mody, B. Layton, N. A. Siebs, and H. L. Dennys (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said:—Gentlemen, with your permission, I will take the annual report and accounts as read. In proposing the adoption of the report there is but little to add with reference to the period covered by it, but you will observe that during the twelve months over which the accounts extend the receipts were \$972.07 in excess of those during the preceding twelve months, and that these extra receipts enabled the Treasurer to keep a balance to the credit of the City Hall in the current account with the Bank, although heavy expenses, amounting to \$2,451.35, mainly incurred in 1896, had to be met out of last year's receipts. As the building gets older the cost of upkeep can hardly be expected to decrease. Such large gatherings are held in the City Hall, especially during the winter months, that of the Committee cannot help feeling that it is of the first importance to do all that can be done to

keep the building structurally in a sound condition, and although, it is to be regretted that this necessitates a considerable expenditure, they feel bound to effect as speedily as possible all such repairs as the architects certify to be really necessary. I am glad to be able to add that no serious damage was done to the building by the typhoons that were in the vicinity of the colony last year. The Theatre receipts during the last few months have hardly been as large as was expected, chiefly owing to the fact that one of the large travelling Companies that had booked the Theatre for September and October last visited India instead of coming to China as previously arranged. As, however, this Company proposes coming to Hongkong shortly, the receipts for the current year will in all probability equal those of last, and I trust that we shall be in a position to continue to shew a balance to the credit of current account at the end of the present financial year without having to appeal to the public for subscriptions. With these few remarks I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Mr. Mody seconded.

Carried unanimously.

This concluded the business.

The following is the report submitted:—

The last annual meeting was held on the 9th January, 1897.

#### COMMITTEE.

There have been no changes in the Committee since the last meeting was held, and it still consists of the Honourable J. J. Bell-Irving (Chairman), and Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, H. N. Mody, B. Layton, and N. A. Siebs.

#### THE STATE OF THE BUILDING.

The building generally may at present be said to be substantially in a good state of repair, though the Committee hope to be in a position next year to have the exterior colour-washed, as it is beginning to shew signs of deterioration.

The annual overhaul revealed the necessity of rather extensive repairs to the roof and woodwork; the flat roof of the verandah on the South side of the Theatre was discovered to be in a very rotten condition and had to be entirely renewed, with new beams, joists, &c. It was also found necessary to reconstruct the North-East turret roof, and considerable repair was necessitated to the other turret roofs, the dormer windows and to other parts of the roof generally. As in former years, the beams supporting the floors throughout the building were opened and carefully examined and all defective woodwork was renewed.

During the twelve months from 1st July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897, the Theatre was engaged by the Rifle Brigade, Mr. Burton, Miss Elsie Adair, the Smoking Concert Club, the Amateur Dramatic Club, Japanese Jugglers, Mr. Marks, Hudson's Surprise Party, the "Rainbow" Minstrels, and Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Company, and during the year the St. Andrew's Hall was put at the disposal of those engaged in charitable and educational objects, free of charge.

The total receipts from all sources were higher during the 12 months from July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1897, than they were in the previous year, but the extensive repairs required to the Theatre pillars and ball room ceilings having to be met out of this year's receipts, the expenditure during the year under review was greater than the receipts, and consequently the balance in the hands of the Treasurer on the 30th June, 1897, was somewhat less than that shewn in the previous account.

#### THE LIBRARY.

A valuable theological work in 34 volumes, being the collected works of J. N. Darby, was presented by Dr. E. J. Eitel prior to his leaving the colony; while 47 new books printed in Hongkong, consisting chiefly of religious tracts, were sent to the Library by the Government. The Belgian Consul, Dr. Doberck, Messrs. Williams and Norgate, Ednie Brown, E. Neidhart, F. D. Guedes, N. A. Allen, and A. C. Hide have also to be thanked for books and newspapers presented by them. As in former years the proprietors of the *Government Gazette*, the *China Mail*, the *Daily Press*, and the *Hongkong Telegraph* have been good enough



to supply the library with free copies of their respective journals. The visitors to the Library from July, 1896, to June, 1897, were 4,662 in number, compared with 3,725 during the 12 months 1895-1896.

## MUSEUM.

The chief additions to the Museum during the year under review were a crocodile's skull from Borneo, two cobras killed at the Peak, three other snakes, a scorpion, and two broad-tailed lizards caught on the island and a wire-snake (tit sin shé) caught in Canton. The following is a list of the contributors who have to be thanked for either presenting or lending articles to the Museum:—G. C. Anderson, E. Abraham, Lieut. Dawson, H. L. Dennys, C. H. Gale, D. R. Hart-Buck, M. Jacob, G. H. Potts, McEwan, D. R. Sassoon, J. M. A. S. da Silva, F. B. Smith, Lo Fat Chee, W. G. Waddilove, and Wong Shu Tong. The number of those who visited the Museum during the 12 months was 134,008, and of these 9,716 were other than Chinese.

## ACCOUNTS.

The balance in the hands of the Honorary Treasurer on the 30th June, 1897, was \$1,210.31, as appears from the following account of receipts and disbursements. As explained above, heavy expenses incurred in the previous twelve months had to be met out of the funds shown to credit in last year's account, and as there is \$12,039.30 on fixed deposit to the credit of the City Hall fund with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, upon which it would be possible to draw in the event of an emergency, the Committee have not thought it necessary to appeal to the public during the current year for subscriptions.

ACCOUNT SHOWING RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM 1st JULY, 1896, TO 30th JUNE, 1897.	
To balance in hands of the Hon. Treasurer on 30th June, 1896, as shown in last report	\$1,647.14
To receipts from Theatre, St. Andrew's Hall, Ball Room, &c, &c	6,154.16
To rent of Chamber of Commerce	600.00
To Government Grant for 1897	1,200.00
To interest on current account in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to 30th June, 1897	18.62
	\$9,619.92
By wages for 12 months	\$3,348.00
By repairs and alterations	2,451.35
By gas	1,006.38
By electric light	312.34
By museum and office expenses	496.54
By insurance premia	701.00
By Government fire brigade	94.00
By balance	1,210.31
	\$9,619.92

J. J. BELL-IRVING, Chairman.

## WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Co., Ltd., was held on the 17th January in the offices of the General Managers (Messrs Meyer and Co.). Mr. J. G. Schroter presided and there were also present—Messrs. C. O. Heurmann, Kwok Lum, H. Ehmer, J. Orange, H. T. Nölke, F. Henderson, O. Hille, and C. Schroter.

Mr. C. SCHROTER read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the reports and accounts for the past year have been circulated several days ago and with your permission I will follow the usual course and take them as read. By our agreement with the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, giving us a fixed rental for our premises and doing away with all active work on our part, the accounts have been simplified in such a manner that I do not think any comment on them is necessary. It only remains for me to add that the lessees have in a fair manner looked after the maintenance of the buildings as required of them under the lease, and spent a good amount for repairs, particulars of which have been furnished to us. Our architects, Messrs Palmer and Turner, could therefore certify, as a result of their customary annual survey, that they found everything in a satisfactory state. Nothing further of interest occurs to me, but before moving the adoption

of the report, I shall be glad to answer any questions the shareholders may have to put.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and passing of accounts.

Mr. O. VON DER HEYDE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. O. VON DER HEYDE proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Henderson as auditor.

Mr. H. EHMER seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before us, gentlemen. I am much obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

The following is the report submitted to the meeting:—

The general managers beg to submit to the shareholders their report on the working of the company with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1897.

Under the lease with the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, completed in 1896, the income of this company has been put on a fixed basis at \$8,300.00 per annum, and out of the first half of the rental an interim dividend at the rate of \$1.50 per share was paid on the 7th July, 1897. The balance now at credit of profit and loss account, including the balance of \$234.35 from last year, amounts to \$1,248.21. After providing for the final dividend at the above rate, absorbing \$3,900.00, this leaves a small surplus of \$348.21, which it is recommended to carry forward to new profit and loss account.

## AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson, whose re-election is recommended.

MEYER &amp; Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 8th January, 1898.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1897.	
To capital account: 2,600 shares at \$100, of which \$37.50 paid up	\$ 97,500.00
To mortgages of	\$140,000.00
To mortgages of	20,000.00
	160,000.00
To dividend account	495.00
To reserve fund	2,500.00
To balance of profit and loss account	4,248.21
	\$264,743.21
By Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$ 4,743.21
By property account	260,000.00
	\$264,743.21

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

By balance of 1896	\$ 234.35
By net rent for premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company for 1st Semester, 1897	4,150.00
By net rent for premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company for 2nd Semester, 1897	4,150.00
By transfer fees of 1897	42.00
By interest account, 1897	72.36
	\$8,648.71
To interim dividend paid for 1st Semester, 1897	\$ 3,900.00
To commission to General Managers for 1897	500.00
To balance of working account	50
To net profit	4,248.21
	\$8,648.71

## THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer Chingtu:—

Mount Macdonald,  
23rd December, 1897.

I have to report that work at the above Company's Mine is being confined to the sinking of the Queen main shaft, in which the country is at present very hard, but fair progress is being made and the sinking will soon be completed, when driving for the reef will be commenced and proceeded with as soon as possible. Contractors for removal and re-erection of battery making fair progress.

## OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer Chingtu:—

Mount Macdonald, 23rd December, 1897.

I have the honour to report work done since the 14th instant as follows:—

Eureka Mine.—Main shaft engaged sinking well below 300 feet, also widening out shaft to receive frame sets. This work will soon be completed and chamber cut in western side of shaft, where lode will be cut in about 8 feet.

Stopping above the 150 and 200 foot levels both North and South, stone of very fair grade, have an abundant supply in sight.

Olivers Battery doing excellent work, equal to 200 tons per week. Plates looking well. A general cleaning up and retorting will be completed to-morrow when we anticipate a good average yield.

Water supply.—Just sufficient water to complete present washing up.

With reference to the water supply, a telegram was received from the mines on the 13th inst informing the General Managers that water is now plentiful.

## THE LABUK PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED, IN LIQUIDATION.

The following is the report of the liquidators for presentation at a general meeting of shareholders to be held at No. 4, Praya Central, at noon on the 28th February:—

The Liquidators are now able to present to the shareholders the first and final statement of the Company's accounts made up to the 31st October last and they beg to submit the same for the approval of the shareholders in order that the winding up of the Company's affairs may be completed and authority given to the liquidators to have the books, papers, &c., destroyed.

As will be seen from the accounts, a first and final return of \$2.75 per share has been made to the registered shareholders and the other assets of the Company have been absorbed as stated in the accounts.

A. W. WALKINSHAW,  
JAMES H. COX,

Liquidators.

Hongkong, 10th January, 1898.

## CRICKET.

## HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS' ROYAL ARTILLERY.

A match between teams representing the Hongkong Volunteers and the Royal Artillery was played on the Cricket Ground on 14th Jan. The Volunteers won by 32 on the first innings. Following are the scores:—

VOLUNTEERS.		2nd Innings.	
1st Innings.			
Gun. Brett, b Salter	0	not out	59
Lt. Maitland, b Croucher	37		
Gun. Uphill, b Croucher	0		
Sergt. R. F. Lammert, b Davies	19	not out	23
Gun. Arthur, ct. sub, b Sergt.-Major Gould	19		
Sergt. Crombie, ct. Salter, b Gould	5		
Gun. Crawford, b Davies	0		
Corpl. Skelton, ct. sub, b Gould	5	c Langhorne, b Salter	0
Corpl. Bamsey, ct. and b Croucher	16	b Davies	0
Surg.-apt. Lawson, b Croucher	8	b Adams	71
Gun. Humphreys, not out	1		
Extras	9	Extras	14
Total	119	Total	167

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.		NB. Wickets.	
Overs.	Maid. Runs. Wides.		
Salter	3	19	1
Croucher	10.1	30	4
Lieut. Davies	10	44	2
Sgt.-Mjr. Gould	4	12	3
Cpt. Langhorne	2	5	1
Second Innings.			
Lieut. Davies	9	47	1
Corpl. Croucher	6	42	—
Cpt. Langhorne	4	18	—
Trump. Adams	5	30	1
Bomb. Salter	4	18	1



## ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Capt. Langhorne, c Lammert, b Lowson	22
Pr. Salter, run out	13
Lieut. Carey, b Lammert	0
Tpt. Adams, c Maitland, b Lowson	13
Corpl. Croucher, b Lowson	0
Sergt. Wells, b Lammert	6
Sergt. Major Gould, not out	11
Lieut. Davies, b Lowson	4
Corp. Sampson, b Brett	0
Gunner Hubbard, b Brett	3
Q. M. S. Smith, b Lowson	3
Extras	12
Total	87

## BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Capt. Lowson...	16	5	33	—	—	5
Sergt. Lammert	11	2	38	—	—	2
Gr. Brett	4	1	4	—	—	2

## HONGKONG FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD.

The Committee met on Tuesday afternoon, 11th Jan., to arrange for the ensuing competition. The following form the present Committee:—Messrs. E. F. MacKay, P. G. Davies, R. A. D. Gow, W. H. Pryce-Browne, R. M. L. I., R. G. Parker, R. L. R., H. W. Slade, Hon. Treasurer, and F. Browne, Hon. Secretary.

The following new rule was proposed for adoption by Mr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Gow, and carried unanimously:—"In connection with this competition, in the event of any Association, Club, player, official, or member being proved to the satisfaction of the Committee to have been guilty of any breach of rules or misconduct, the Committee shall have the power to order the offending Association, Club, player, official, or member, to be suspended for a stated period, or to be dealt with in such manner as the Committee may think fit, and any Association, Club, or player, playing with or against the offending Association, Club, or player, during such time of suspension, shall also be dealt with in such manner as the Committee may think fit."

The ties for the first and second rounds were then drawn with the following results:—

## FIRST ROUND

Kowloon v. F Company, R.L.R.  
25th R.A. v. R.E.  
D Company, R.L.R. v. B Company, R.L.R.  
G " " v. H " "  
C " " v. H.M.S. Grafton.  
Hongkong Football Club, Colts, Victor Emmanuel, Alacrity, E Co. R.L.R., Powerful, Narcissus, Centurion, A Co. R.L.R., Immortalité, and Archer drew byes.

The first mentioned teams have choice of ground and must supply ball. Matches must commence at four o'clock.

The first round must be completed before 25th January.

## SECOND ROUND.

Colts v. H.M.S. Victor Emmanuel.  
H.M.S. Alacrity v. E Company, R.L.R.  
Winner of (G Company v. H.M.S. Grafton) v. H.M.S. Powerful.  
H.M.S. Narcissus v. H.M.S. Centurion.  
Winner of (G Company, R.L.R. v. H Company, R.L.R.) v. A Company, R.L.R.  
Hongkong Football Club v. Winner of (Kowloon v. F Company, R.L.R.)  
Winner of (25th R.A. v. R.E.) v. H.M.S. Immortalité.

H.M.S. Archer v. Winner of (D Company, R.L.R. v. B Company, R.L.R.)

The second round may be commenced at once, and must be completed before 21st Feb.

H.M.S. Narcissus may play off its tie with H.M.S. Centurion at whatever place they may mutually agree upon.

The Committee has decided that a match cannot be postponed on account of bad weather unless the referee before the commencement of the match has declared the ground to be unfit for play.

We regret to learn, says the *Japan Advertiser*, of the death from typhoid fever of Mr. Harries, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which took place on Saturday night, 1st January, at the General Hospital. The deceased gentleman had only been ill a few days.

## CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

## THE INDIAN YARN TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The Chinese merchants apprehend that the present stocks of yarn and the present intense stringency of money are not likely to find reduction for some six months to come, and if heavy importations of the former are continued and no measures in the interests of the trade both on your side and here are adopted to check in some measure the influx in a country already flooded with stocks, the present evil will assume a shape that will be disastrous possibly beyond recovery to the spinners in India, and to the importers and dealers in China.

These are the words of the Chinese Cotton Yarn Guild in their letter to the Bombay Millowners' Association dated 7th December, 1897, advocating the adoption of short time. Yet before the letter had reached its destination, there was a scramble for Indian yarn in our market among each and all the members composing the said Guild and in the space of three to four weeks from the despatch of their letter these dealers in spite of "abnormal stocks," "heavy arrivals," "intense stringency of money," and "in the midst of the usual settlement time before the Chinese New Year" purchased amongst themselves yarn to the extent of over 30,000 bales at an advance of one to ten dollars per bale over rates ruling at the end of November. Comment is quite superfluous. Of course, as the saying goes, every trade has its tricks and the yarn trade is no exception, but when wholesale and deliberate attempts are made to alarm and hoodwink people at a distance, it is high time the subject attracted more attention in the proper quarter.

ALPHA.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1898.

## AUTOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Agreeing with you on the advisability of a definite rule as to the admission of reporters at executions in Victoria Gaol, it strikes me that you have overlooked the fact that as matters stand executions need not be conducted in secret merely on account of the exclusion of reporters. Rule 148 of the Prison Regulations enacts "the prison shall be open to all Justices of the Peace at all reasonable times," and no time can be more reasonable than the time of an execution. The duty of attending at such a time would certainly be a disagreeable one, but, what is more to the point, the advantages of publicity are far better secured by the presence of reporters of a respectable public press than in any other way. In fact, the advantages of such modified publicity require no setting forth; it is enough to point out that there is no better precaution possible against incompetence or carelessness than the doing a thing in the public eye. What you say this morning with regard to the late practically secret meetings of the Sanitary Board is also important. If I am not mistaken these be signs of the times. I suspect a regime is approaching, if not already upon us, under which it will behoove us all in our several degrees to resist an autocratic attitude on the part of the administration more consonant with Irish than with English or Scotch precedents. And this should be the particular business of the Press.

J. P.

Hongkong, 14th January, 1898.

## THE NEW POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—I have read with some interest your leader in the issue of the 14th inst. regarding the proposed Post Office site and consider all those interested in the welfare of the colony will agree that no better site for the Post Office than the present one could be found. However the idea came about of changing the position passes comprehension, and were the views taken of the business community and all those who are in the habit of daily using the Post Office few could fairly gainsay that the present position is the proper

location for the Post Office both as regards the business portion of Victoria, the higher levels, the constantly changing shipping community, and the landing and despatching of mails.

A Post Office in large cities and centres is placed as near the centre of the city as possible—in the market square in ancient towns—easily accessible from all quarters, and the present position meets the requirement admirably. On the other hand, a site on the new reclamation is altogether out of the way of traffic and of the leading thoroughfares, and neither will the streets as laid out on the portion of the present new reclamation become the leading and through thoroughfares of the place, more especially so as H.M. Naval Yard will shortly be extended some hundreds of yards seaward and no public thoroughfare allowed in that direction eastwards.

Further, the site of the present Post Office should be retained by the Government for all time and never should it be disposed of. This will become the more apparent as the colony progresses, and that before long, and the requirements of the Government for public purposes increase with the expansion of the place.

Had the question in the interests of the general public been considered no other decision could have been come to than that the present position is the site for the Post Office. As well might the home authorities when the Thames Embankment was formed have removed the General Post Office St. Martin's le Grand on to the land reclaimed by the Thames Embankment simply because the Embankment had been made, and at the same time sold the existing site, as it has been proposed here to do with the present Post Office site.

And this leads me to ask at whose instance and who is it who on behalf of the public welfare has been so anxious and pressing to carry out the scheme. It does not appear up to the present time the general public have had the slightest say in the matter and I can only imagine it is concluded they have no right or voice.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

ENQUIRER.

Hongkong, January 15th, 1898.

## THE SINKING OF THE "KIANG-NING."

Shanghai, 1st January.

Messrs. Bennertz & Co.'s chartered steamer *Kiangning* sank in the river yesterday morning, when loaded with 20,000 cases of kerosene oil, and on the point of leaving for Hankow.

The *Kiangning* had been detained by the Customs, acting under the orders of the Chinese authorities, for seventeen months, and in November last Mr. Bennertz notified the Viceroy that she ought to be docked for examination; she being nineteen years old, and only designed originally for river work. No notice was taken of this request, and Mr. Bennertz being advised that he ought to put the steamers to work as soon as they were released, so as not to add unnecessarily to his claim for demurrage, the *Kiangning* was sent alongside the American ship *C. S. Bement*, lying at the Eastern Wharf, and took on board 20,000 cases of kerosene oil for Hankow. She was not overloaded, for she could have taken another 2,000 cases, and she was only drawing 8 feet 6 inches forward and 11 feet 4 inches aft. At about 4 a.m. yesterday her master, Petersen, who had turned in, was called and told that the steamer was making water aft. He at once got assistance from the *C. S. Bement*, hoping to rectify matters by shifting some of the cargo from aft, but she sank so rapidly that nothing could be done, the captain reporting that the hull is actually broken some six feet forward of the engine-room. All on board were saved, though with some difficulty, and the steamer now lies with her funnel and a portion of her top deck out of water. She lies at an angle of about 25 degrees with the bank, the ebb tide having carried her head off until brought up by the bow-rope. At 3 p.m. yesterday the wreck presented a peculiar appearance. The houses had lifted, owing to the cases of oil forcing the decks up, the top of them reaching the yellow band round the funnel which only showed about four feet above them, while the ventilators were below the



houses. The iron part of the hull could not be seen at all, but the top of the wooden sides was slightly visible. The mast had disappeared. It is understood that insurance was effected on both vessel and cargo. The latter can be saved without much difficulty, and it should then be possible to raise the steamer herself, as there is some doubt whether her hull is broken.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### WATCHING PORT ARTHUR.

We learn that the British Admiral does not seem to mind very much the objection of his Russian friends to have their doings at Port Arthur watched by outsiders. He has kept the *Immortalite* in that harbour for days and has within the past couple of days sent the *Iphigenia* to keep her company in that much coveted port.—*China Gazette.*

#### 100 PREMATURE.

The rumours that the British had occupied the Ghusans, so freely circulated in Shanghai and finally exported to Ningpo, induced a body of compradores and general dealers to despatch a strong fleet of boats for Tanghai, carrying provisions, spirits, tobacco, etc., for sale to the men-of-war men. On arrival at the Islands no men-of-war were to be seen. A careful search of the group also failed to discover any. The enterprising natives then turned their prows homewards, arriving on Thursday, 6th January.—*Mercury.*

#### THE SHANGHAI-HANKOW STEAMERS.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha experienced difficulty to secure Chinese agents in various ports connected with the opening of the Shanghai-Hankow line owing to the interference of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, and others, but this was overcome by the negotiations made by our Consul in Shanghai. It is reported that the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, Butterfield and Swire, and Jardine, Matheson & Co., have decided to form a union and to compete with the Shosen Kaisha with their thirteen steamers. The Company, however, which expected this competition from the first, will not relax in the maintenance of the service, the new line being backed by a subsidy of 160,000 yen from Government. Moreover, there exists an agreement with the Government which is to the effect that the Company is entitled to petition for the increase of the bounty if the service does not pay after two years from its opening.—*Japan Mail.*

#### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The 31st instant is the birth-day of the Empress of China. The Viceroy has given instructions to the officers to assemble in Man-shau-kung to hold a thanksgiving service.

The Black Flag General, Liu-Yung-fu, has sent three thousand soldiers to Kinchow to meet any emergency. He said that the place is very important and foreigners have set their eyes on it. The General pays visits to the Viceroy, the Governor, and the Tartar General every day and sometimes they all consult together. He is regarded by the officers as a very clever man.

The match factory named Yee-Wo, in Ping Chow, established by a merchant named Fung-Kan-t, was destroyed by a party of natives several days ago. The merchant has petitioned the local Magistrate for protection and the Magistrate has sent some lukongs to the place to hunt out the chief offenders.

The Superintendent of Customs who was appointed to the post for one year, on probation, has received telegraphic instructions from Peking confirming him in the office for a term of two more years. As soon as this telegram was received the Viceroy and all the other officers went to offer the Superintendent congratulations.

Several days ago a junk loaded with a full cargo of arms and powder was seized in the Pun-u district by a cruiser and the master of the junk was arrested. It is said that the arms and powder were purchased from Canton by robbers.

#### HONGKONG.

For several days now we have had no news from the North or from London concerning the situation in the East. His Excellency the Governor, who goes home in less than a fortnight, distributed the prizes at the Diocesan School and Orphanage on the 12th inst. and also addressed the pupils, and on Friday last he distributed the prizes at Queen's College, where Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice, delivered an address. The Sanitary Board had an interesting meeting on the 13th inst. The City Hall shareholders and subscribers met on Friday and the shareholders in the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Company, Limited, met on Monday. There were 4,081 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 221 were Europeans. The appointment of Sergeant W. G. Warnock to be an Inspector of Nuisances is gazetted.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Hing Lung Lane, Hung Hom, is in future to be called Gillies Avenue.

The stamp revenue last year was \$274,044, being an increase of \$35,745 on the amount collected in the previous year.

The Portuguese gunboat *Liberal*, which is en route to Macao to relieve the *Bengo*, arrived at Colombo on the 13th January.

The maximum temperature last month was 76.4, on the 10th, and the minimum 47.9, on the 25th. The rainfall for the month was 0.48 inch.

The man Schwaln, who is charged with obtaining \$500 by false pretences from a Chinese firm, was on 15th January committed for trial by the Magistrate.

The appointment of the Hon. R. D. Ormsby Director of Public Works, to be an official member of the Legislative Council has been approved by Her Majesty.

Mr. W. Maclean, who formerly represented the Straits Insurance Co. at Hongkong, has been appointed Singapore Agent of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited.

We are informed that subject to audit the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank will give a dividend of £1 5s. per share, place 10 lacs to reserve, and carry forward about 3 lacs.

On Monday morning the King's Own (Lancaster) Regiment and the Hongkong Regiment took part in a brigade drill at the Happy Valley. Major General Black was in command.

On Monday afternoon Mr. V. I. Remedios sold by auction leasehold properties on sections of Inland Lots Nos. 585, 504, and 604, together with the buildings thereon known as No. 7, Mosque Terrace. The property was sold for \$5,800.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that the following telegram has been received from the manager of the Company's mines in Pahang:—"We have struck the reef in the North Shaft at a depth of 17ft. below the 200 ft. level. Expect to find rich ore deeper."

On Sunday, 16th January, the Hongkong Volunteers attended a church parade service at Union Church. Major Sir John Carrington (Commandant) and the other officers were present, and the attendance of men was fairly good. The Rev. J. G. Williams took the service and preached an excellent sermon.

On 14th January on the Happy Valley the Royal Lancaster Regiment defeated the Hongkong Football Club by five goals to nil. The Lancaster forwards combined good shooting with well judged passing and proved themselves too good for their opponents. Nearly a thousand spectators witnessed the match.

The steamer *Pakshan*, which has been chartered by Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill and Co., left Hongkong on 16th January direct for Victoria. She is intended for service on the Pacific coast, and will convey passengers for Klondike from Victoria to Dyea, from which port they will proceed to the gold fields. Part of the journey to Klondike can be accomplished from Dyea by a railway which has been specially constructed over the most difficult mountain passes. This important work has been carried out under the supervision of Mr. G. B. Dodwell, whose great enterprise will, we hope, meet with the highest success. The *Pakshan* has been fitted up specially for the accommodation of passengers for Klondike, but no passengers are being carried on the voyage to Victoria.

From the Registrar-General's returns for the fourth quarter of 1897 it appears that there were amongst the British and Foreign community 70 births and 57 deaths, the birth-rate being 20.04 and the death rate 16.64. In the Chinese community there were 306 births and 1,301 deaths, the birth rate being 5.20 and the death rate 22.14.

Mr. A. G. Ward gave another of his enjoyable organ recitals on Thursday afternoon 13th January, at St. John's Cathedral to a large congregation. Mrs. G. C. Cox and Mr. Ernst Mirow assisted with vocal items. The following was the programme:—

Prelude and Fugue in A minor ..... J. S. Bach.  
Song ..... "Contrition" ..... Beethoven.  
Mr Ernst Mirow.  
"Barcarole" { From the 4th Concerto, arranged for Organ by ..... Sterndale.  
Steggall ..... Bennett.  
Andante ..... Silas.  
a. "Cavatina" (Arranged by Archer) ..... Raff.  
b. "Canzonetta" (From three Pieces for Organ) ..... Marshall.  
Arioso ..... { "But the Lord is mindful" ..... Mendelssohn.  
("S. Paul") .....  
Mrs. G. C. Cox.

Marche Solennelle ..... Maily.

On 12th Jan. Commander Hastings appeared at the Police Court to prosecute Captain Elliszer, of the steamer *Astrid* for leaving the harbour without taking out his clearance papers. In reply to the Magistrate Commander Hastings said there were no suspicious circumstances but lately there had been a lot of trouble with Norwegian boats. A copy of the harbour regulations was handed to the defendant when he arrived here. The defendant said he did not read them but left that duty to his broker. Commander Hastings added that defendant went away without even paying any port dues, which the agents had to pay. There was no port in the world which could be left without port dues being paid. A fine of \$10 was imposed.

The smoking concert given at the United Service Club on Monday evening was most enjoyable in every respect. There was a very large attendance and throughout the evening the greatest enthusiasm was displayed. The new Club rooms are in Queen's Road Central and very handsome quarters they are—well lighted, commodious, and centrally situated, and as the membership roll is a pretty lengthy one the Club is bound to prove a conspicuous success. Major Sir John Carrington, who has always taken the keenest interest in matters connected with the Army and Navy, presided at the concert. The vocalists were Messrs. Hughes, Summers, Aldridge, Ward, Bentley, Upton, Stainton, Booty, McConnell, Donolme, and they all received very hearty applause for their contributions. There is so much good talent in both branches of the Service that we have no doubt similar concerts will be frequently held. We are quite certain they will always be warmly appreciated.

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### TEA.

CANTON, 11th January.—Congou.—Total settlements for the last month are again very small, only some 2,800 boxes having been purchased at prices ranging from 11s. 10d. to 11s. 20 per picul. The market for these Teas is probably closed, and it is improbable that any more leaf will arrive from the country this season. Scented Capers.—The total export to date amounts to 4,715,415 lbs., which we imagined would be the final figures for this season, but we learn some 800/900 boxes more are likely to go forward on Native account. The total amount of leaf left over in Canton this season on Native hands, is computed at inside 2,000 boxes and a so all amount may still be held in the country.

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98 lbs.	1896-97 lbs.
Canton and Macao .....	5,828,745	6,176,749
Shanghai and Hankow .....	14,058,339	17,809,185
Foochow .....	12,309,891	12,518,868
Amoy .....	675,081	589,478
	32,872,556	37,094,280







The business in Cottons this week has comprised both English and American makes, but as usual only what suits the operators has been reported, many of the sales in the book referring to the previous week's dealings. The market is unquestionably strong, but until there is some concerted action among the Importers it cannot be expected that any upward movement of importance will take place. News from the Outports is encouraging and so far everything points to a prosperous trade in the coming season. The political outlook is much more peaceful, and if there is any reliance to be placed in recent telegrams the future prospects for this country are certainly very favourable, and it seems unlikely that there will be any violent changes in the course of trade that were at one time feared imminent. Forward business is rendered almost impracticable by the long delivery required to execute orders, March shipment being the earliest that can be arranged, while for some makes as late as May is asked. Here the question of Exchange steps in and prevents anything being done, even if operators are willing to take the risk so far ahead.

**METALS.** 14th January.—(From Messrs. Alex. Belfield & Co.'s Report).—Iron has been brisk, both for Old and New materials. Prices have been slightly easier, and many lines can be had at less than quotations. Enquiry has been very brisk, and the following contracts were completed:—400 tons Steel Plate Cuttings at 95.96s., c.i.f., 100 tons Horse-shoes, "spot" Tls. 2.18, 100 tons Coke Tls. 21.25, 200 tons Coke 17s., c.i.f., 500 cases Tin 11s. 6d., c.i.f., 500 tons Sohair and Goffin Nailrods 126/127s. c.i.f.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/8; Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale:—

	Tls.	Stg.
Tsateles.—Red Pagoda 3	507 1/2	11 9/16
Blue Elephant	495	11 6/16
Buffalo	488 1/2	11 4/16
Silver Double Elephant	465	10 10/16
Chintah Stork Chayling	440	10 3/16
Yellow Silk.—Mienchow	300 a 310	7 1/4 a 7 1/2
Meeyang	300	7 1/4
Fooyang	290	6 11/16
Hand Filatures.—Mars Chop No 1	530	12 1/4

#### JOINT STOCK SHARES.

**HONGKONG,** 18th January.—The market has ruled fairly active and rates steady to strong, but the near approach of the Chinese New Year holidays is at time of writing beginning to have its usual effect and to curtail business.

**BANKS.**—Hongkong, and Shanghai have been quiet with sellers at 187 and 186 per cent. prem. and no business. The London latest rate is 45.15s. 0d. The directors recommend that \$1,000,000 be placed to reserve, about \$300,000 carried forward, and the usual dividend of 25/ to shareholders. Nationals have changed hands at \$19 and \$20.

**MARINE INSURANCES.**—Straits have further weakened to \$15 with sales. Nothing else to report under this heading.

**FIRE INSURANCES.**—Hongkong continue firm with small sales at \$375 and Chinas have found buyers at \$107 1/2, closing firm with buyers.

**SHIPPING.**—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been considerably firmer and in demand; shares have changed hands at \$28 1/2, \$28 1/2, \$29, and \$29 1/2, closing at \$29 1/2; on time sales were effected for March at \$30 and a demand for April at equivalent rates remains unsatisfied. The directors will recommend the payment of the usual dividend for the half-year ending 31st December (i.e. \$1.20) and the carrying forward of about \$30,000 to reserve. Indo-Chinas have ruled strong with sales at \$52 1/2, delivery on 31st instant and at \$52 1/2 cash, market closing with buyers at \$53. Douglases have been in some demand and have found buyers at \$57 and \$57 1/2, closing quieter at \$57. China and Manila and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

**REFINERIES.**—China Sugars have been more or less neglected but steady at \$162 cash and with a small demand forward at equivalent rates. Luzons continue to be enquired for at \$41 without bringing out any shares.

**MINING.**—Punjoms have slightly improved their position with sales at \$6.25, \$6.35, \$6.50, and \$6.75. A telegram from the mine says, "We have struck the reef in the North shaft at a depth of 17 ft. below the 200 ft. level. Expect to find rich ore deeper." Charbonnages are obtainable at \$110. New Balmorals have receded to \$1.30 and \$1.20 with small sales and sellers. Jelebus have changed hands at \$2.

Raubs have ruled quiet at \$21 1/2 to \$22 with small sales at \$23 1/2 for April. The Company has declared a dividend of 1/- and a simultaneous call of 1/- payable on the 7th February. Olivers A have been sold at \$19 and Bs. at \$8. Great Easterns have ruled steady with small sales at \$3 (\$2 1/2 paid up.)

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue in demand at the enhanced rate of 229 per cent. prem., but holders still refuse to part. Kowloon Wharves and Wanchai Godowns without business at quotations.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands remain quiet at \$74 after sales at \$73. Hotels have been negotiated at \$55 cash, \$55 1/2 for end of the month, and at \$57 1/2 for March, closing somewhat quieter at \$55 cash. West Points have again changed hands at \$22, but close with sellers. Humphreys and Kowloon Lands have been put through in small lots at quotations.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands have been quiet with only small sales at \$34 and \$18. Electrics have found buyers at \$10, Watsons at \$12, and Fenwicks at \$29. Cottons neglected and without local business at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[358.75 prem.]
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	187 1/2
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1.	£5. 5s., buyers
Nat. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$20
Founders Shares	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$162
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong		17, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 105
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 540.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$3 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$29, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$34, sales
Do. New Issue	\$2 1/2	\$18
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$120.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$55, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$171, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$229 p. ct. prem. = \$411.25, buyers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$150
China Fire	\$20	\$107 1/2, sal. & buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$71, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$375, sales
North-China	\$25	Tls. 158, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$15, sales
Union	\$25	\$229, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$142 1/2, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$73, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.25, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19
West Point Building	\$40	\$21 1/2, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$11, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$110, buyers
Great E. & C'onian	\$1	\$6, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2 1/2	\$3, sales & sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.20, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$19, sellers
Do. B.	\$2 1/2	\$3, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$1	\$6 1/2, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.50, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$21 1/2, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$76, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£5	£2 15s. buyers
Do. Preference	£10	£7 10s. buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$57, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$29 1/2, sal. & buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$53, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sales
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37 1/2	\$40 1/2, ex div.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

**SHANGHAI,** 14th January.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—The market has been fairly active during the week, and there is not much change in rates, except a good advance in Hongkong & Shanghai Bank share, consequent on a large rise in London. It was reported that the British government was going to guarantee a large loan which the Chinese government wanted but there seems to be some difficulties over the security which the latter ought to give. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares changed hands early in the week at 176 and 179 per cent premium. Rumours of the loan mentioned above, and the rise of prices in London to 244.10s., caused an advance, and cash shares were placed at 184 locally and to Hongkong at 185 per cent premium. On time, shares were purchased from Hongkong for March delivery at 192 per cent premium. National Bank shares have changed hands in Hongkong at \$20. Marine Insurance.—Unions are offering at \$230. North Chinas have been placed, and are offering, at \$200. Yangtzes were sold at \$142 1/2, but the market afterwards weakened and business was done at \$140. Straits Insurance shares were sold at \$17 cash and \$16 1/2 for the 31st January. Fire Insurance.—No local business is reported in Hongkong, but Hongkong quotes buyers at \$372 1/2. Chinas have changed hands at \$103. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares are offering in Hongkong at \$28. Indo-Chinas have been sold at \$39 1/2 for the 31st March, and more are wanted at the same rate. Sugar Companies.—China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$165 cash and \$170 for the 31st March. Luzons are better, shares having been placed at \$40. Mining Companies.—A sale of Raub Australian Gold Mining shares is reported at \$23 1/2. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. are obtainable at Tls. 182 1/2. S. C. Fernham & Co. shares have been sold at Tls. 167 1/2. Shanghai Dock shares have been sold, and are offering, at Tls. 75. One or two lots of Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands at Tls. 120. Lands.—Business has been done in Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 90, and more are offering. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares changed hands at Tls. 225, cum the dividend of Tls. 6 and Tls. 2 of interest on the reserve fund, payable on the 20th current. In Cotton Mill shares: Ewos have been placed at Tls. 100 and Tls. 101, Internationals at Tls. 112 cash, Tls. 114 and Tls. 116 for March, Tls. 116 for April and Tls. 117 for May, Laou-Kung-Mows at Tls. 104 and Tls. 105 cash and Tls. 110 for April, Soy Chees at Tls. 540, cum dividend, which is reported to be 4 per cent., and Yah Loones at Tls. 90, and wanted. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 62, and Shanghai Feather Cleaning shares at Tls. 500. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 95 cash, Tls. 95 for January, and Tls. 97 1/2/99 for March. The market is easier and shares are offering at Tls. 95 cash, or perhaps a little under. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been sold at Tls. 375, Tls. 370, Tls. 375, and Tls. 360 cash, Tls. 415 for the 18th February, and Tls. 475 for the 31st May, cum the new issue at par in all cases. Shares in J. Llewellyn & Co. were placed at \$60. Hall & Holtz shares at \$28 1/2, A. S. Watson & Co. shares, from Hongkong, at \$12 1/2, and Green Island Cement shares, from Hongkong, at \$35 1/2, for delivery on the 31st March. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent Debentures were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 100, plus the accrued interest. Country Club Debentures were sold at par, accrued interest, as usual.

#### EXCHANGE.

TUESDAY, 18th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.43
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.47
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.96 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	48
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144 1/2



ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer .....	144
Bank, on demand .....	144½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight .....	73
Private, 30 days' sight .....	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand .....	4½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand .....	7 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand .....	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate .....	10.20
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....	53.00

## TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 14th January (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—We have to record a further decline of 2s. 6d. in London rates, which has been quoted by all Conference Lines, while for New York direct there has been no change. Coastwise.—Japan coal rates have ruled firm in the absence of a plentiful supply of tonnage. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 32s. 6d.; tea 30s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 40s.; tea 37s. 6d.; Baltimore *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Königsberg *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 40s.; tea 37s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 40s.; tea 37s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 30s.; waste silk 32s. 6d.; tea 30s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s. New York *via* Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$9 per ton strawbraid; New York *via* Suez, 27s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 27s. 6d. tea; Boston, 35s. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 35s. per ton general cargo. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.65 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.50 per ton coal, nominal; Newchwang to Kobe season closed; Newchwang to southern ports, season closed.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH:

For LONDON.—Java (str.), Kuisow (str.), Ceylon (str.).  
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Peking (str.), Doric (str.).  
 For NEW YORK.—Benledi (str.), Port Adelaide (str.), Lyderhorn (str.).  
 For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).  
 For BREMEN.—Darmstadt (str.), Preussen (str.).  
 For BALTIMORE.—Standard.  
 For PORTLAND.—Pelican (str.).  
 For AUSTRALIA.—Yamashiro Maru (str.), Changsha (str.).  
 For MARSEILLES.—Inaba Maru (str.).  
 For VICTORIA.—Tacoma (str.).  
 For Seattle.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

## MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

## January—

## ARRIVALS.

13, Anping, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 13, China, German str., from Saigon.  
 13, Choysang, British str., from Canton.  
 13, Astral, British str., from Palo Sembilan.  
 13, Woosung, British str., from Canton.  
 13, Taiwan, British str., from Saigon.  
 13, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.  
 13, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
 13, Chihli, British str., from Canton.  
 13, Szechuen, British str., from Hongay.  
 14, Cosmopolit, British str., from Swatow.  
 14, Argyll, British str., from London.  
 14, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.  
 14, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.  
 14, Ghazee, British str., from London.  
 14, Shanghai, British str., from London.  
 14, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.  
 14, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.  
 14, Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.

14, Tientsin, British str., from Java.  
 14, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 15, Smit, Dutch str., from Moji.  
 15, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.  
 15, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.  
 15, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.  
 15, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.  
 15, Foochow, British str., from Swatow.  
 15, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.  
 15, Poseidon, Austrian str., from Kobe.  
 16, Glengarry, British str., from London.  
 16, Kaisow, British str., from Shanghai.  
 16, Kriemhild, German str., from Moji.  
 16, Tailee, German str., from Samarang.  
 16, Hermes, German str., from Canton.  
 16, Kaifong, British str., from Canton.  
 16, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.  
 17, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.  
 17, Bullmouth, British str., from Batoum.  
 17, Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.  
 17, Benledi, British str., from Amoy.  
 17, Clara, German str., from Pakhoi.  
 18, City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F'isco.  
 18, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.  
 18, Saghalien, French str., from Shanghai.  
 18, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.  
 18, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.  
 18, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.  
 18, Benvenue, British str., from Moji.  
 18, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.  
 18, Chwnshan, British str., from Bangkok.  
 18, Rio, German str., from Singapore.  
 18, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.  
 18, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.

## January— DEPARTURES.

13, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
 13, Australian, British str., for Kobe.  
 13, Thames, British str., for Europe.  
 13, Ask, Danish str., for Pakhoi.  
 13, Della, German str., for Hamburg.  
 13, Kiev, Russian str., for Nagasaki.  
 13, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.  
 13, Orange Prince, Brit. str., for P. Sembilan.  
 13, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.  
 14, Woosung, British str., for Moji.  
 14, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.  
 14, New York, Amr. ship, for San Francisco.  
 14, Astral, British str., for Shanghai.  
 14, Chihli, British str., for Swatow.  
 14, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.  
 14, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.  
 14, Hohenzollern, German str., for Y'hama.  
 14, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.  
 15, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 15, Fausang, British str., for Sourabaya.  
 15, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.  
 15, Gaelic, British str., for S. Francisco.  
 15, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.  
 15, Krim, Norw. str., for Singapore.  
 15, Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.  
 15, Yiksang, British str., for Taiwanfoo.  
 15, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.  
 16, Argyll, British str., for Shanghai.  
 16, Cosmopolit, German str., for Iloilo.  
 16, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.  
 16, Pakshan, British str., for Victoria.  
 16, Siegfried, German str., for Singapore.  
 16, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.  
 16, Foochow, British str., for Canton.  
 16, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.  
 16, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.  
 16, Alacrity, British des. ves., for Chusan.  
 16, Handy, British torpedo destr., for Chusan.  
 16, Hart, British torpedo destr., for Chusan.  
 17, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.  
 17, Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.  
 17, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongay.  
 17, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.  
 17, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.  
 18, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Shanghai.  
 18, Kaisow, British str., for Singapore.  
 18, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.  
 18, Argyll, British str., for Shanghai.  
 18, Szechuen, British str., for Yokohama.  
 18, Chunsang, British str., for Java.  
 18, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
 18, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.  
 18, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.  
 18, Poseidon, Austrian str., for Singapore.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. H. Oldhour.  
 Per *Memnon*, from Sandakan, &c., Hon A. Bampfylde, Capt. Peck, Messrs. Girvan and Korczki.

Per *Preussen*, from Bremen, &c., Dr. Lowson, Messrs. Saka, Cohen, Hidaka, Asahima, von Waldon, Ting, Capt. Davis, Mrs. Reid Messrs. Lay, Symons, Wilkie, Bognall, Miss Spakowsky, Messrs. Nazamuma, von Hall, Capt. Lieutenant Gozheim, Lieut. v. Mantuffel, Messrs. Baner, Graf v. Soden, Keller, Hildebrandt, Boz Mezner, Zahlmeister, B. Schroeder, Doehmann Liebold, Stenemann Schlafke, M. Falkerhayn, and F. Ruck.

Per *Taishun*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Forsaith, Mr. and Mrs. Skinner and family, Capt. and Mrs. Wilson and family, Messrs. Byers and Muller.

Per *Kaisow*, from Shanghai, Mr. Campbell.

Per *Chingtu*, from Australia, Mrs. J. E. Inch.

Per *Glengarry*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. Rehwaltdt; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Wimble, Mr. Cohn; for Hankow, Mr. D. Jones.

Per *Deucalion*, from Sandakan, Mr. and Mrs. Senton, Miss Beaton, and Mr. Altman.

Per *Benledi*, from Amoy, Mr. Ley and.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Geo. W. Schelberger, J. P. Grant, and Chan Chi Chun.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. W. Fitton and 2 children, Miss Edith E. Cameron, Messrs. W. H. Black, W. Tanglin, G. Gibbs, and G. Mareselly.

Per *City of Peking*, from San Francisco, &c., Sir N. J. Hannen, Lady Hannen, Miss Hannen, Messrs. N. Hannen, W. Cowan, Pietroni, Max Vopelius, G. S. Harris, W. Helms, C. A. Henley, W. W. Campbell, and Ho Bokwoon, Masters S. R. Lowder, and F. M. Lowder, Miss Everall, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Barringer, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Ward, and 321 Chinese.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. J. Orange, H. Sutherland, and H. D. Morrison, Mrs. Dunne and child, and Miss Alves, and 109 Chinese.

Per *Shanghai*, from London, Major Matthews, Lieuts. des Voeux and Lloyd Thomas, and Mr. Englebrecht.

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Printed and Published by D. WARREN SMITH, at 29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.